

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LX.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 31st July, at No. 46, Neil Road, the wife of TAN HAP SENG, of a son.

On the 13th August, at No. 2, Ormsby Villas, Kowloon, the wife of JOHN A. PLUMMER, of a son. At "Grassbank," Oxley Road, Singapore, the wife of A. M. SARKIES, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 21st July, at Shanghai, GABRIEL H. J. SHEKURY, of Shanghai, to BERYL BLANCHE, second daughter of the late WILLIAM J. REID, of Melbourne, and of Mrs. E. K. CHANDLER, of Pootung.

On the 16th August, at the Union Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. C. H. Hickling, EDITH, youngest daughter of J. CRAIG, of Geelong, Victoria, Australia, to JOHN N. MURRAY, chief officer of s.s. *Fatshan*, Hongkong, Canton, and Macao S. S. Co., Hongkong.

DEATHS.

On the 5th August, at Foochow, the wife of JAMES HELBLING.

On the 17th August, at the Government Civil Hospital, HAROLD CLARKE, of Carmichael and Clarke.

On the 19th August, at Government Civil Hospital, Captain R. MACKENZIE, of s.s. *Kiang Tung*.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail arrived, per the s.s. *Gneiss* on the 16th inst., and the French Mail of the 22nd ult. is expected to arrive, per the s.s. *Ernest Simons* on Wednesday, the 24th inst.

Mrs. James Helbling of Foochow died on the 5th instant.

The *Waiwupu* has decided to recommend the establishment of a Chinese Legation at Lisbon.

The *Shanghai Mercury* expects the arrival at Shanghai of the Russian hospital ship *Mongolia*, from Port Arthur.

A Japanese stabbed a Filipino with a sword-cane at Shanghai on the 7th inst. The assailant was a "mafficker," and was afterwards arrested.

Two hundred and fifty-four deaths were registered at Singapore during the week ending on the 30th July. The ratio per thousand was 53.59.

The Russians expect to open a railway skirting Lake Baikal by the middle of next month. There is no immediate prospect of doubling the Siberian line.

China announces that she will retain her neutrality until the close of the war. After that she will probably not be allowed to retain anything, comments the *Atlanta Journal*.

The *Sin-wan-pao* says that the *Wai-wu-pu* has recovered a collection of astronomical gear which has been in the custody of the French Legation at Peking since the Boxer affair.

In the hope of making profit out of the Chinamen who have displaced them from the mines some Kaffirs have taken to pigbreeding, so as to gratify the Celestials' love of pork.

The Sultan of Brunei refuses to allow compulsory vaccination in his territory as a means of combatting the smallpox epidemic raging there, but is willing that people should be vaccinated if they wish.

H.M.S. *Terrible*, Comdr. A. T. Stuart, arrived from Portsmouth on the 18th inst. with reliefs for the *Albion* and *Robin*. About half the men on board, some 600 or so, will be transferred to other vessels. The *Terrible*, herself, may return to England in about a month's time.

In the course of an embezzlement case in the Manila Court the prosecuting attorney said that the habit of defrauding their employers has become so common among employees in Manila that there is never a week passes in which there is not from one to ten cases of embezzlement.

"The British have shown little or no interest in the construction of the Kowloon-Canton line, which has recently been built by Americans." (This news item occurred in the *Manila Sunday Sun* of the 14th inst. It does not do to expect the Britisher to keep pace with his American cousin sometimes.)

The United States Circuit Court has just given a decision that will interest passengers crossing the Atlantic, as it holds the Atlantic Transport Company responsible for the loss of a passenger's jewellery on board their liner *Minnetonka*. The company repudiated any responsibility for the loss, claiming that the conditions on which their tickets are issued freed them, but the Court held that these conditions were against public policy. The passenger in the case just decided had sought to deposit the jewellery with the purser, but finding that officer apparently too busy to receive them the passenger placed them under the mattress, from which place they were stolen.—Laffan.

It is reported from Tokyo that a petition has been presented by the foreign residents of Yokohama to the Japanese Government for the full protection of foreign steamers on the coast of Japan by the Imperial Navy.

The Governor of Kiangsu (since appointed Director-General of Grain Transport) memorialises regarding the purchasing of Tls. 20,000 worth of minting machinery from a well-known foreign firm at Shanghai, for the proposed mint at Soochow. The machinery is capable of turning out 300,000 coins every 24 hours, and the profit derived from this source will be reserved for furthering reform in Kiangsu province.

We feel sure that our missionary friends will not begrudge us the hearty laugh over this exquisite little story, which we took from the *N.C. Daily News*. The captain of a mail steamer says that on a recent voyage to the East a lady passenger, a missionary, had painted on her large trunk the words, "The Lord is my Shepherd." Directly underneath this was the label "Not Wanted on the Voyage."

The famous old U.S. ship *Monocacy*, which was for so many years stationed in the river at Tongku, has at last come to an untoward end. It will be remembered that some considerable time ago she was sold to a Japanese firm, and last February, whilst carrying a cargo of coal from Japan to Chemulpo, she struck a rock and sank. A visitor to Tientsin who was in a passing vessel at the time witnessed the disaster. As the *Monocacy* went down in shallow water it is possible she may be raised.

Germany has taken great interest in the improvement of Dover Harbour, and the big German Atlantic liners have now made Dover a port of call. Not to be outmanoeuvred, France is displaying an interest in the provision of additional facilities for steamboat passengers at the neighbouring harbour of Folkestone. M. Cambon, the French Minister to London, cemented the final stone on a new pier at Folkestone last month, and thus helped also to cement the *entente cordiale* between the two countries.

An interesting little story is going the rounds concerning the last voyage from Kutchinotsu to Kobe of the Blue Funnel steamer *Sarpedon*, now at Hongkong. It appears that sixteen Japanese warships came up with her, and honoured her with their assistance as convoys. The captain of the *Sarpedon* was told to sail an outside course. The fleet, with all lights out, steamed parallel to her course, but close inshore. There seems very little doubt as to the object of this manoeuvre. The *Sarpedon* was being employed as a decoy, to catch the Vladivostok squadron.

The Japanese destroyers *Akebono* and *Oboro* approached Port Arthur on the afternoon of the 5th instant for the purpose of reconnoitring. Suddenly fourteen destroyers steamed out of the harbour and attempted to surround the Japanese in three divisions. The Japanese exchanged a hot fire and attacked three of the Russian destroyers which were steering towards Hsien-sheng Promontory, and the enemy retired to the harbour, giving way to the Japanese. Meanwhile the destroyer *Ikazuchi* reinforced her two comrades, and they jointly drove the remaining eleven Russians back into the harbour. The promptness and valour shown by the Japanese in this action are most profoundly appreciated, says the *N.C. Daily News* correspondent.

PIN-PRICKS.

(Daily Press, 13th August.)

So that amazing Russian plan for the invasion of India, about which we were told two or three weeks ago, turns out to be an academic trifle of General KUROPATKIN'S. At the time, when we first heard of the great "scoop" of the *Daily Express*, most of us in Hongkong managed to conclude that somebody had discovered a mare's nest. Detailed plans for an actual invasion, accompanied by map, do not usually find their way into the pages of a ha'penny, or even a threepenny, newspaper. It is natural, of course, that our London contemporaries should point out the impressive circumstance that this "is probably the first time in history that a newspaper is able to lay before its readers a copy of one of these secret State documents." As to the essential secrecy of this wonderful document, perhaps the less said the better. Novelists like Mr. Louis TRACY have presented gratis to our Continental neighbours elaborate plans for the invasion of England, but nobody worried much, except a few copy-seekers in our own glorious profession.

The chagrin experienced at St. Petersburg in consequence of the *Express* exposure is not likely to dwarf in importance the smallest Japanese success. General KUROPATKIN'S scheme, briefly explained, is to march 115,000 men into India in two sections, one advancing via Merv to Kandahar; the other via Samarkand to Kabul. The capture of Herat and the reconciliation of Afghanistan to the new regime is to take two years. That accomplished, Kandahar would be marched upon, and India overrun by way of the Bolan and Khyber passes. Such supplies as could not be carried by the Trans-Caspian Railway would be shipped at some Caspian ports and caravanned across Persia. General KUROPATKIN estimates that "by the outbreak of war British influence in the Persian Gulf will have become so small that Russia need fear no movement of the British from the Gulf side." The necessary *casus belli* would be invented some fine November month, and would take the form of an imaginary attack by Afghans upon Russian outposts. By the time the Eagles fly at Kandahar and Kabul, we are to have lost all influence with the natives of India, and to be faced with another Mutiny, instigated and supported by Russia. This ingenious programme is set out at great length, "in General KUROPATKIN'S own language," and commented on with the customary editorial undertone of complacency, the JACK HORNER air of "what a smart boy am I." It must have cost our enterprising contemporary some effort to concede that "the report should be taken in no alarmist spirit." For our part, we could not have foreseen any alarm from such flimsy material. The astute Russian's plan is too much like that of LAFONTAINE'S milkmaid, too much like the daydream of ALNASHAR in the *Arabian Nights*. It depends so much upon circumstances being fortuitous, as explained in the story of the old soldier ECHEPHON, told to the advisers of the Rabelaisian KING PICROCHOLE, who was situated very much as is the Tsar in this invasion now supposed to be contemplated. For it is admitted that the success of KUROPATKIN'S plan depends largely upon the attitude of the Persian SHAH and the Afghanistan AMIR. Recent diplomatic events in Persia have shown that more than one may play the game of influence; and that, as BYRON says, "the doctrine of the Persian . . . leaves behind as many

doubts as any other doctrine." Despite much Russian intrigue, we doubt if Persia has been indoctrinated with either Russophilia or Anglophobia. As for Afghanistan, during those two years of striving in that buffer state, it is not to be supposed that we should do no more than watch it. The *Daily Express* itself came out the very next day with an amusing heading "Checkmate," purporting a reference to "KITCHENER'S plans to stop Russia." The only counter plan mentioned is a suggestion that now India's loyalty is assured, Lord KITCHENER may mass all the Indian army of 222,000 men on the north-west frontier, presumably to checkmate a move that General SIR HENRY GREEN describes as unworthy of serious consideration. Still, this journalistic coup seems to have caused a sensation at Home, so we may consider it to the extent of remarking that there is no immediate occasion for alarm: Russia being elsewhere engaged just now. When KUROPATKIN gets through his present contract, he is unlikely to trouble about another for some time.

BRITISH POLITICS.

(Daily Press, 15th August.)

REUTER informs us, in a neighbouring column, that still another bye-election has fallen to the Radicals. In consequence of the sad death (by a motor accident) of Sir W. H. RATTIGAN, a vacancy occurred in the electoral division of North East Lanarkshire, and Mr. FINDLAY was put up by the Liberals to oppose the Unionist candidate, Mr. TOUCH. The Labour party also ran a man, Mr. ROBERTSON, who secured 3,984 votes out of a ballot of 14,280. The Liberal majority was 942, a gain of over two thousand votes, if allowance be made for the increase in the Labour vote. In the bye-election in September 1901, Mr. SMILLIE, the Labour candidate, received only 2,900 votes. Sir WM. HY. RATTIGAN, Conservative, was at that time returned with 5,673 suffrages, or a 904 majority over the Liberal candidate, Mr. CECIL HARMSWORTH. Great capital is, by the Opposition, being made of these bye-elections, as is but natural. This one, coming on top of Market Harborough, Devonport, and their numerous forerunners, must make them more cock-a-hoop than ever, and greedier for the expected Dissolution. At Market Harborough in the Midlands, it may be remembered, Mr. STANHOPE raised the Liberal majority by 410; and at Devonport in the West Country Mr. J. W. BENN, the Chairman of the London County Council, effaced a Unionist majority of twenty-eight, and established a Liberal one of 1,041. The result of the last thirty or forty bye-elections must have shown nearly a fifty per cent. increase in the Liberal vote. It is, we confess, a matter of surprise to us out here how important a factor the Chinese labour ordinance has proved in these contests. Devonport was fought on that one plank alone, almost; while in this last election we expect to hear that it figured much more conspicuously in the mural pleadings than did the dead or dying movement toward fiscal reform. Without for a moment attaching so much significance to these bye-elections as the Opposition do, we are bound to see in them symptoms of a serious wane of the popularity that sent the present Government into office four years ago. This is to be attributed to various causes. The tenseness of the national nerves, during the last war, was inevitably followed by a reactionary nausea, a feeling which, in the individual, betrays itself by an ill-concealed

desire to "kick somebody." Ignoring none of the impolite comments made upon our people's lapses into "mafficking," it must still be admitted that we went through a very trying time, necessitating great self-control, and that we managed to behave fairly well under all the circumstances. We have been paying the price, and as any form of hysterics after a crisis is not to be thought of, the safety valve of the British public is found in this way of showing at the polling booth that it has felt hurt. Add to that whimsical but very natural explanation the shock of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S revolutionary proposals, the scandalous laxity of the Government's supporters, the unfortunate tinkering with educational legislation, and the asthmishing epidemic of commercial "yellow peril" fever that seems to have outbroken at Home, and very little amazement is possible at the results now regarded by many as forecasting the trend of the next General Election. The idol of the electors, the one strong man deservedly looked up to, has shared the fate of the Court favourite, the jester who goes too far at last, and forfeits all that he had gained. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, according to Sir WEMYSS REID, anticipates a Liberal Ministry with a limited reign of not more than two years. Mr. BALFOUR, too, does not seem to have retained the confidence of his followers, as was evident when he had to threaten that the Government might "ask relief from responsibilities which they are not sustaining for their own comfort or satisfaction." After all is said, when the Dissolution comes, the next general election is likely to be fought on the one issue of Party pure and simple. Looking back over the general elections of the last thirty years, it is to be observed that, except on two explainable occasions, the results have shown the natural phenomenon of action and reaction, the phenomenon of the pendulum in politics. It was the turn of the Liberals four years ago, and the special circumstances that called for a Conservative Ministry then do not present themselves so forcibly now, so it is nothing to be wondered at if the change-loving electorate give them an innings this time. It is a gratifying reflection that it does not matter much: that old England shares the characteristics of TENNYSON'S brook, in its ultimate indifference to the comings and goings of men.

"PASSIVE RESISTERS."

(Daily Press, 15th August.)

The "Passive Resisters" at Home do not receive our sympathy, because we consider that under a representative government it is the duty of the losing side to bow to the majority when its decision becomes law. It is impossible to regard as fortunate, however, the efforts of a Yeovil clergyman to emphasise this argument in the *International Journal of Ethics*. Strong in his convictions, of course, that the "passive resisters" are "entirely wrong," the reverend but rash gentleman replies to their plea, that it is more moral to obey God than Man, in this boomerang-like utterance: "The command of God is heard in the legalised demand of itself, and by means of human law and institutions." That that is a phraseological boomerang, we demonstrate by citing such "human laws" as the anti-Christian edicts of the Emperor NERO in Rome. Were the early Christian martyrs "entirely wrong" and their passive resistance contrary to both law and ethics? Or the Scottish Covenanters, or the English Protestants, or the French Huguenots, or any of the countless reformers

of whom this reverend but rash moralist is proud? We do not suggest the right of the "passive resisters" to rank with these, but if morality can recognise no call to a duty which disregards the obligations of the law and its claims upon the individual citizen, then it seems to us the popular estimation of the heroes and heroines of history requires modification. This, of course, re-opens the everlasting question of the conscientious objector: consideration of whose tender idiosyncrasies leads to anomalies. The law represents the collective conscience, and it ought, in either ethics or politics, to overrule the individual. As the collective conscience is as liable to error as the individual, however, it is obvious the Yeovil parson has put his foot in it by referring to human law as the message of the Deity. Politics and theology do not go well in double harness.

HONGKONG AFFORESTATION.

(Daily Press, 16th August.)

In the matter of the wholesale tree felling that seemed to have been begun by the Afforestation Department, it is now alleged that the numerous correspondents who have protested in our columns were, with ourselves, under a misapprehension. The arborous slopes of Hongkong are not, we are assured, to be denuded. "For this relief, much thanks." To the learned but unfortunately mythical Emperor Hwang Ti is attributed the saying that "when man puts forth his faculties of destruction, Heaven falls and Earth is overthrown." The great Taoist evidently had a gift of exaggeration, but we are not one with him in dreading the exercise of the destructive faculties, and to this dread may be assigned our freely expressed nervousness with regard to the intentions of our Forestry Superintendent, Mr. S. T. DUNN. Now that we have registered our protest, and thereby elicited expressions of opinion sufficient to show how any attempt to exploit our arborescent treasury would be regarded by the public, we would gladly take it for granted that no more interference will be rashly entered upon. At the same time, before leaving the subject, it seems advisable that we should traverse some of the comments made by Mr. DUNN upon the warning that we and our readers felt obliged to utter. The Superintendent explains that between one-twenty-fifth and one-thirtieth of the forests in the Colony have matured, and that "as is done everywhere where tree planting is systematically carried out," the matured trees are being felled and sold, and young trees planted in the spaces left vacant thereby. It seems evident, from that particular comment, that Mr. DUNN misapprehends our point of view, and the point of view of our correspondents. We are quite aware of the systems followed by the afforestation experts of India and of Europe. At Home—meaning England, of course—it has been our duty and our privilege in the past to point out Great Britain's neglect of the science of arboriculture, and to urge the Government to emulation of the work of France, Austria-Hungary, Denmark, Russia, and the Forestry Association of America, in this respect. Whereas our fore-elders practised forestry for sport's sake (as in the case of WILLIAM the Conqueror and the New Forest), or for purposes of financial profit (a motive we trust to remain absent from Hongkong), the modern heirs to the wisdom of the ancients and the scientific knowledge of the new have learned to practise it for greater gains than those. We look to our plantations to modify extremes of temperature, to

encourage rainfall, to absorb the miasmatic exhalations of the soil, and to make ozone for our sorely tried lungs. The serious results of reckless timber cutting in Australia, in India, and in Russia, have been long noticed and admitted. France and Germany have, we believe, special State departments of afforestation, and colleges in which the special science is taught. In these cases, the supply of timber is sought to be maintained, and the work is expected to pay for itself out of its own revenue. Thus, as Mr. DUNN has told us, trees are systematically cut down and sold. In France the "block system" is, or was, favoured, whole sections of forest falling as they mature. In Germany, where they have a keen eye to the æsthetic value of trees, the thinning out process is more affected. Now, be it observed, the case of Hongkong is altogether different. The pioneers in the Colony had to deal with a barren-looking, rocky waste. To make Hongkong more habitable, hygienically and æsthetically, they were at cost of money, time, thought, and pains to cover the naked shoulders of the hills with pleasing verdure and with grateful shade. The chief expense is over and done with. It is, or should be, written off. The taxpayers of Hongkong are not anxious to ease their financial burden at the expense of the unbragging assets that have taken a generation to accumulate. We fancy, so far as Mr. DUNN's talk of planting four trees for each one felled is concerned, that their request would be: "Plant more, but fell none." Especially by this "block system" of felling, which the Superintendent recommends as being less expensive, great gaps, exposures to those who have hitherto gazed with admiration on the particular bit of landscape concerned, are left, and remain during the tedious years that the young trees are growing. In a part of England that shall, for obvious reasons, be left unnamed, a gentleman succeeded to an estate which included a range of tree-clad hills, bordering a picturesque valley which thousands went annually to gaze at and admire. His father had suffered under the impression that he could tell what horses would arrive first at the winning-post, and in the course of a long life in which frequent failures to make right selections did not disabuse him of that notion, he contrived to leave for his son some obligations that led his heir to denude the hills of the oaks and elms and pines that made them beautiful. There was a tremendous outcry, but it came too late. For nearly a decade the traces of the crime remained painfully obvious, and it became customary to point out the bleak hillsides as object lessons of the evils of betting. Fortunately there is no such imperative incentive to drive our local Department into making such a sacrifice. We hope that any eagerness on their part after revenue as a primary object will be nipped in the bud. Mr. DUNN seeks to cheer us by mentioning the rapid growth (here) of the China pine; but his mercenary suggestion (the phrase is used in its inoffensive sense) that the "profitable time to cut the tree is at twenty-five years of age" cuts us to the quick. What are we going to feel during the dozen or twenty years intervening between profitable times? All human trouble, we are reminded, has come from meddling with a tree; and unless the Afforestation Department lets well alone, they will sorely trouble more people than they imagine to be interested in the fate of our forests. After all, they are an *aff*-orestation, and not a *de*-orestation department. It is pertinent to remind them of that. Finally, Mr. DUNN has suggested that from the hygienic point of view, four young trees are more salubrious

than one big one. We hope we may be excused if we put that aside as mere quibbling. It does not help us, and it is improbably true at best.

CORONERS AND JURIES AT HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 17th August.)

One of our magistrates, acting as coroner, held an inquisition the day before yesterday, not because he had personally deemed it necessary, but because many members of the community considered it desirable. What we heard of the circumstances attending the death in question led us to sympathise with the anxiety of the public to know that everything was as it should be. The extraordinary finding of the jury empanelled has acted rather as a *douche* upon our aspirations after the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in such matters. Putting aside the significant comment which we felt obliged to append to our report in yesterday's issue, with its suggestion that the result of this clamoured-for inquest was of the "cut-and-dried" sort, there was so much verbal impedimenta about what should have been a verdict, that we are now tempted to think the local modifications of English law, as embodied in Ordinance No. 17 of 1888, are no great hardship. At home, the practice is to hold an inquest over almost every death which has not been preceded by medical attentions. Over carefulness in this matter is to be preferred to the merest suspicion of indifference, for a multiplicity of inquests, with the certainty that anything not absolutely open and aboveboard must be searchingly enquired into, affords an admirable safeguard against crime. It, at least, makes the plans of the would-be criminal much more difficult of accomplishment. Even then, with the kingdom mapped out into coronerial districts, and inquests as numerous as they are, it has been very hard to make coroners' juries understand (especially since the coming into force of the Workmen's Compensation Act) that their sole and simple business is "to well and truly inquire how and by what means the deceased came by his or her death." The human sympathies of jurymen have to be tempered by the professional man's training in the ways of law and justice. The temptation to set all things straight that seem awry is very great, and so the coroner has learned to sit patiently while the foreman reads off a string of "riders" and recommendations which he and his colleagues have no power to insist upon. Such supererogatory additions to the findings of juries are usually "forwarded to the proper quarter," and there they sink into the oblivion they too often deserve. In our Colony we have no coroner *qua* coroner. His functions have been, since the 9th June, 1888, fulfilled by a magistrate or magistrates. These gentlemen have the discretionary powers enjoyed by the Coroner at Home. In the presence of an official or professional report with which they feel satisfied, they may rule that an inquest is not necessary. They may even hold an inquiry without summoning a jury at all. In one respect, Hongkong is a long way ahead of the old country. In section six of the ordinance referred to, it is left to his discretion to dispense with or insist upon the dismal and often unwise formality of "viewing the body." Recently there has been an influential agitation at Home to bring about some amelioration of that requirement, and it is anticipated, or was recently, that an amendment making the practice akin to the American one (of the coroner only having view) would be

obtained. Coming back to the local event which has prompted these comments, we cannot reconcile ourself to the conviction that this particular jury appreciated the exactions of their joint oath, to "present no man for hatred, malice, or illwill." In their colloquial usage, those words seem too harsh for application to the motives that must have underlain some of the recommendations of these jurors. The particular comments or suggestions implying displeasure at the management or mismanagement of the police are, however, healthily indicative of easily recognisable human tendencies, the tendencies to resent, and blame, and censure, what has not appeared satisfactory. So far as we can judge, the utmost that should have been alleged against Sergeant LEE was an error of judgment, and that an error which, according to a professional witness, any unprofessional man might have made. That police officers should study what is known as First Aid is a recommendation which commends itself. So, for that matter, should every man. As a matter of fact, the ambulance course has been enthusiastically taken up by the police generally, and to those who have graduated, the public cannot be too grateful. But it is not an accomplishment that anybody—even a jury—may demand as a right from a policeman. Else, with that and other cults that would present themselves, we should require every recruit for the constabulary to be a sort of ADMIRABLE JAMES CRICHTON. There was a very similar case at Shanghai not long ago, in which a man supposed to be "dead drunk" was dying of opium poisoning. In that case, the man had been drinking, smelled of drink, and when he died, the police were quite exonerated, evidence being given that they frequently had ordinary "incapables" brought in who presented identical symptoms. It is almost safe to assume that had any member of this jury seen the deceased lying on the road, he would have passed by like the Levite, satisfied (without the alcoholic odours that misled the police) that it was only a case of drunkenness. It is, of course, all very sad; but we must not allow our sympathies to work injustice upon the living. That the jury was actuated by impulses more of heart than of head is evident in their expression of opinion that the widow should be recompensed for what they had just decided was an accident. Such recompense would doubtless be acceptable, and an act of grace, but from whom did the jury expect it to come? From the P.W.D., or from the Police, or whence? In only one particular are we able to side with them in their fault-finding. We agree that, on the evidence, it was a case in which the authorities might reasonably have spontaneously ordered an enquiry. It is our hope that, after what we have said, future jurymen will remember to act in such reasonable manner as will not discourage our busy magistrates from summoning their services where they promise to be useful.

AFTER THE NAVAL FIGHTS.

(Daily Press 18th August.)

HUMANITARIANS, learning Vice-Admiral KAMIMURA's reason for not making sure of the two Vladivostock vessels that got away, will applaud his action in devoting all his resources to the rescue of the drowning men of the *Rurik*. Naval men, if any consider his conduct in that instance with a view to professional criticism, will be sure to say that it was a tactical mistake to let them away. Limited as its powers were, the Vladivostock squadron had already shown, by its demonstrations in northern waters,

and upon Japanese coasts, that it was a hostile factor whose elimination was a very important desideratum indeed. With the Vladivostock squadron rendered absolutely *hors de combat*, Vice-Admiral KAMIMURA would have been free to co-operate more immediately with Admiral Togo. The importance of capturing or sinking the two ships he had already partially defeated, if not crippled, was so vital a necessity that all but the ultra-squeamish would have felt obliged to excuse him had he considered it his duty to continue the pursuit, leaving the *Rurik's* crew to shift for themselves. There is nothing sanguinary in thus speaking: allowing the existence of war in fact, the adage that "what is worth doing is worth doing well" is still applicable, consistent with due observation of the permissible limits of violence as agreed upon by the international conference at Brussels, and more lately defined at the Hague Conference. Truces to alleviate the lot of the wounded are not expected until the objects of the particular engagement have been achieved. Had NELSON ordered the "cease fire" when the first ship of the foe went down, Trafalgar would not have figured as conspicuously in the victorious annals of England as it does. The subsequent course of history might also have been very different. There is even now no telling what mischief the Russian remnant, once repaired and refitted, may yet accomplish in revenge for KAMIMURA's consideration. There is one item of the affair that is productive of satisfaction for the pro-Japanese observer. After this, any repetition of the allegations of Japanese inherent barbarism will be at a discount. Turning to the flight from Port Arthur, it has been a subject of conjecture as to the cause of that dash into the open, by a fleet that looked like sheltering beneath the forts until the end of the war. Was it that the adverse ending was within measurable distance, and did the Russians hope thus to save something from the wreck? Was it professional eagerness on the part of Russian officers to show that they too could bravely do or die? Or was it, as has been suggested, that the high angle fire of the attacking Japanese artillery was making their situation intolerable? The latest information on this head comes from REUTER, who says that the fleet left Port Arthur in accordance with an imperative order from Admiral SKRYDLOFF. This, of course, does not explain much; but information vouchsafed by some of the Russian officers who sought sanctuary in neutral ports suggests that part of SKRYDLOFF's scheme, at least, was the effecting of a junction of the two fleets, with probably some forlorn hope of a coup beyond that. With reference to this skulking in neutral ports, one comment forcibly presents itself for utterance. It is that with regard to breaches of neutrality, Russia seems to have a most imperfect idea of what may or may not be done. When Japan seems to transgress international law in any such way, Russian perception seems to be quickened; but recent St. Petersburg protests compel the assumption that there is no Russian equivalent for the philosophy of the Goose and Gander maxim. What is sauce for Russia would seem to be poison for Japan. The first breach of Chinese neutrality in the current war that we can recall was the Russian attempt to evade the limitation of the right of asylum at Shanghai, in the case of the *Mandjour*. The Japanese, up to the incident of the *Riesitelini's* seizure at Chefoo, have acted throughout with a scrupulous discretion, and whatever Russia has had to say about neutral ships, she has had no accusation to make until now against

Japan. Now the Russian Minister at Peking is attaining a wonderful vehemence of protest, and has launched a complaint of complicity against China. REUTER quotes the words "cowardice" and "treason"; and China, with its usual susceptibility to loudly-voiced complaints, is said to have demanded the restoration of the *Riesitelini*. We would fain offer Japan *Punch's* advice, in the form of an emphatic "Don't." One of the oldest authorities on international law gave it as his opinion that a belligerent might, *dum ferret opus*, continue in neutral waters a chase commenced in open sea. Whether this opinion still holds good or not, the Japanese commander at Chefoo has a better excuse than had the American commander of the *Chesapeake* in 1863. Abandoning altogether that perhaps weak contention, China has a perfect case for submission if Japan refuses to surrender the vessel thus captured. The President of France, in an arbitration between Great Britain and the United States, established as a principle that a belligerent attacked in neutral waters forfeited his redress against the neutral power if he attempted to defend himself. The Japanese account is that the *Riesitelini* was the first to open hostilities at Chefoo. It is certain that the Russians there had recourse to violence. The Russian representative at Peking is therefore out of court. That precedent established by Russia's ally, just quoted, is not so unreasonable as its *prima facie* appearance seems to suggest. The *Riesitelini*, in Chefoo, had the option of surrendering to Japan's unlawful seizure, and relying upon subsequent diplomacy to secure its release; or of violating the laws of neutrality by resisting. The minimum count against it is that it elected to try the latter remedy. So it is now a lawful prize. With regard to the sheltering of Russian ships at Shanghai, Tsingtao, and Chefoo, their continued abidance there must be subject to disarmament. A French army fleeing from the Germans in 1871 sought sanctuary in Switzerland. They had to disarm. In disarming the *Mandjour* at Shanghai, Russia has already submitted to the principle. Yet we find the Russian refugees talking quite glibly of trying to get back again to their bases. Very likely, if China finds sufficient backbone to insist upon their departure or disarmament, as the German authorities have already done at Kiochao (*vide* today's telegrams), there will be more protests at Peking. We have now said sufficient, however, to prevent readers from attaching too much importance to the repinings of the Russian Minister.

CANTON RIVER OBSTRUCTIONS.

(Daily Press, 19th August.)

Congratulations are in order on the publication of the advertisement in another column, over the signature of Mr. R. DE LUCA, the Acting Commissioner of Customs at Canton. Therein will be found adequate indication that a question of great moment to the shipping and commercial interests of the Colony, which has occupied particular attention for about twenty years, is about to be answered satisfactorily. In August 1885, the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce wrote to our Chargé d'Affaires at Peking, calling attention to the serious loss and inconvenience being caused by the delay of the Chinese Authorities in the removal of the obstructions in the Canton River. It was during China's trouble with France that huge stone barriers were dropped into the waterway, preventing ships passing beyond Whampoa. The Tung-li Yamen's reply was that it had already ordered their removal, but would repeat its instructions

explicitly to the Viceroy of the Two Kwang. Again in January 1886 the Chamber of Commerce resumed the subject, nothing having been done, and addressed both the British Consul at Canton, Mr. A. FRATER, and the then Chargé d'Affaires at Peking, Mr. N. R. O'CONOR. Two or three months later, the Chamber telegraphed to the British Minister: "Canton River obstructions not yet removed, no steps taken, urgent, important." To that the Governor of Hongkong was requested to reply that the "best attention" of Her Majesty's representative was being devoted to the matter, as he was "fully aware how important the matter is to the commercial interests of Hongkong." It appears that the opinion of the German Consul at that time, Mr. VON MOLLENDORFF, was that it would be better to make Whampoa the port of Canton, and leave the obstructions, but our Consul stated strong objections to this course, and was upheld by his superiors. In reply to requests for further information, the Chamber of Commerce in June 1886 explained that "in consequence of the necessity imposed upon steamers to anchor at Whampoa, instead of proceeding to the anchorage off Shameen, the agents are obliged to maintain communication with Canton by steam launch at an average monthly expense of \$300," and "every steamer loading and discharging at Whampoa is detained from one to three days because of the delay in obtaining the requisite cargo boats." Steamers lost at least two days each voyage, and in the case of the Shanghai-Canton steamers, making about two trips a month, that meant a money loss of from \$15,000 to \$20,000 per annum. There was an average of nine steamers thus affected, so the total loss to British interests, on account of these stones put in to obstruct the French, was between \$135,000 and \$180,000 a year. That estimate did not take into account the losses incurred by outside vessels trading from rice ports. Ocean-going arrivals with cargo for Canton did not tranship it at Hongkong. They discharged at Whampoa. One answer to all this may be gathered from a telegram sent from Hongkong in July 1886: "Shalu Barrier Canton, being filled with stone Viceroy's orders please urge Yamen to countermand." Most of the Consuls at Canton wired Peking to the same effect. In November, in the same year, Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. complained that the delay was becoming "worse than ever," and that the demand for cargo boats was greatly in excess of the supply. The result was "a block." This led to a petition to the Hongkong Government, which referred to the stubbornness and injustice of the Native Authorities. The Viceroy of Canton had "steadily disregarded" the order from Peking, to remove the obstructions. Instead, the Viceroy gave orders that they should be strengthened, as a "permanent defence." As it was the deep channel that had thus been interfered with, it amounted practically to a breach of the Treaty opening Canton. It is characteristic of Chinese methods that they should at this time have been talking also of dredging the Woosung Bar. If this advertisement in to-day's issue promises anything, it is that we are to be gratified a little sooner than the Northern Port, which is still hammering away at the Chinese authorities. In April 1902 the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, which was then doing splendid work in instilling local points-of-view into the mind of Sir JAMES MACKAY, had their attention drawn to the memorandum of Captain LLOYD, of the steamer *Hankow*. They supplied copies of it to our various representatives interested in the negotiations, and

described it as "valuable" evidence. Our readers know that the MACKAY commercial treaty signed at Shanghai in the following September, and ratified in July last year, contained an undertaking that the Chinese Government would "within the next two years," remove the artificial obstructions "so clearly pointed out" by Captain LLOYD. As we have said, the advertisement to which we have directed our readers' attention appears as evidence of Chinese good faith, long looked for, come at last. It may not be all that the Hongkong Chamber believes to be desirable, either in extent or management; but as it evinces a better intention on the part of our Chinese neighbours, and promises amelioration of an intolerable state of things, we may rejoice in it, if only as an earnest of more to follow. Presently we may feel more at liberty to point out where we consider the remedy is not sufficiently thorough to cure the ills that have so long endured.

THE SCOTTISH CHURCHES.

(Daily Press, 21st August.)

Our well-esteemed contemporary, the *Singapore Free Press*, notes the silence of REUTER with regard to the litigation by the Scottish Churches, and quoting in full the telegram we received from our London office early this month, deals with it editorially. By an inadvertence, we allowed it to read "Scottish Church," instead of the plural, which would better have summarised the parties interested in the decision of the House of Lords. Were it worth while, we might argue the comment of our contemporary that "there is no 'Scottish Church'" using the analagous phrase "the Christian Church" as an example. It is, however, more to the point to quote our contemporary's other references to the subject, which appear to be well-informed. The *Hongkong Daily Press* telegram applied, says the Singapore paper—"to the dispute culminating in litigation between the United Free Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland. The circumstances of the union of the Free Church of Scotland and the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland into the United Free Church of Scotland are concisely explained below, as well as the conditions that led to a secession by non-contents with the Union, who indeed hold that with them and not with the United Free Church is the historic continuity and the legal claim to endowments and buildings." The explanation referred to takes the trouble back as far as 1863. Owing to strong opposition to the amalgamation proposed, there was a compromise, in the shape of a Mutual Eligibility Act, which permitted congregations to call ministers from either body. "Again, in '94, on the initiative of the United Presbyterian Church, a fresh movement was made for union. In 1900 the United Presbyterian Synod agreed to union unanimously and the Free Church Assembly agreed by a majority of 557 in a house of 615 members. The Union took place in Edinburgh on Wednesday, October 21st, 1900." Amalgamation with a "voluntary" sect looked too much like disestablishment to the objecting members of the "national Scottish Church," as it might be called, but which is content to be named the "Free Kirk." These conscientious objectors appear to have been out-voted, and "extruded by the majority . . . from the use of the Free Church buildings and funds." Thereupon they went to law, and it was the House of Lords' decision in their favour which we recorded on August 3rd.

The *Singapore Free Press* thinks the decision will give rise to enormous confusion and controversy. It says: "There will be no holding down the exulting dissentients who stood apart at the time of the union of the two non-established Churches four years ago. They were, up till the beginning of August, but as the amputated end of a puppy's tail. They now find that the House of Lords has decided that the out-off fragment is the real puppy, and the quadruped itself is now but as a lopped off excrescence. There is an infinity of humour in the deadly earnestness of the issue now thrown into the arena of Scottish ecclesiastical strife. The debate will be almost universal. And in the midst of it all, the Auld Kirk that swept her house so clean at the Great Reformation will sit and smile in unmoved serenity, while the Presbyteries, Synods, and General Assemblies of her sister Churches convene themselves together to consider this thing that hath befallen."

UNATTAINABLE IDEALS.

(Daily Press, 21st August.)

TOLSTOY's advocacy of a policy of non-resistance is still being quoted in the Orient, and variously commented upon. In a brief reference to his letter in the *Times*, we recently touched only upon some symptoms of his long notorious mania, and did not consider it necessary or advisable to treat the supposedly religious aspect of the position he takes with regard to war. Our northern contemporary the *North-China Daily News* in a still briefer comment seemed to suggest that Tolstoy's message was merely a faithful echo of the Sermon on the Mount. What we have read of the famous letter—we have to admit that a partial perusal was the most we could manage—convinced us that the gist of it was what we should have expected Tolstoy to write. It is not, as we understand it, Christianity; but rather a *melange* of all the debris of the great Russian's ethical reading, moulded and overspread with the sauce of his abnormal mentality. It comes as near the Chinese policy of *wu wei* as anything European can come. It is the Apotheosis of the Inert, and we misapprehend the Galilean cult if that is any part of its formula. Even CHRIST scourged the wrongdoers in the Temple. Buddhism and kindred philosophies fail, even in the face of their apparent popularity, by denying the attributes of humanity. GAUTAMA and the CHRIST did not repudiate the essential character of their human nature; they counselled the subjugation and control of the passions. It was left to their misunderstanding disciples to allege that these emotions were *per se* immoral. TOLSTOY, in his works, if not in this letter to the *Times*, tells men that they have no business to be men: it is more blessed to be passive automata. Unconsciously, he is a plagiarist of the Chinese sage LAO TSE. According to the somewhat abstruse doctrines of TAO, as elaborated so painstakingly by Mr. F. H. BALFOUR, an old-time Shanghai sinologue, it would appear that the Russian preaches a greater extreme of inactivity than the Chinaman. The latter deems it wise to follow the line of least resistance, to drift with the tide of circumstance. TOLSTOY would have us lie down and follow no-whither; he bids us sink under, rather than float on, the tide. Whatever he professes, the Chinaman has been Taoist in practice. It is that following the line of least resistance that has enabled China as a nation to exist through all the chances and conquests of its thousands of years. To exist, we

have said: to live, as more vigorous nations understand life, is something other than the Middle Kingdom has yet attained. Russia, ruled by Tolstoy, would not outlast even one cycle. Some time ago, in one of the silly seasons, the Home papers were quoting a faddist who asserted that somnolence was the secret of longevity. The more men slept, the longer they would live. We have not since heard of any popular movement in the direction of hibernation. The prospect of a nation of dormice was not sufficiently alluring. Preach as they will, these cranks who prate of the elimination of desire do so "by desire." If they were so much in love with quiescence, they would not be so anxious to revolutionize the laws of nature. It, however, does not require philosophic terminology to justify the strong man rejoicing in his strength, the woman happy in her comeliness, or the child laughing at the sunshine. A recent American humorist makes "Uncle Eb" believe that "when God's gin a thing 't' ev'rybody, He must think purty mid-dlin' well uv it. The trouble with mos' folks is they fly tew high. Alwuss 'oughter keep nigh enough't the groun' so 'ye can tech it handy with one foot." "We're Christians up to a sartin' pint. 'Fer one thing I think ef a man 'll stan' still 'n see himself knocked in t' the nex' world he's a leetle tew good fer this."

There is really nothing more to add to that, except that a great, sane world seems to share a like opinion, and to act on it.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

(15th August.)

Considerable progress has been made with the building of the new Law Courts, which are certainly much needed, but new Courts for the magistrates I consider to be a question of even greater urgency, though I am not aware that the Government has even considered the need up to the present. Anyone who is acquainted with these Courts will readily understand how it is that one sees not infrequently in the newspapers the paragraph that one or other of the magistrates has been indisposed and unable to attend the Court. I venture to say that in no office in the Colony do Europeans work under conditions so detrimental to their health as do the magistrates in their Courts. Still I think the magistrates are themselves to blame to some extent. In the larger of the two Courts for instance I have counted as many as thirty-five prisoners squatting in the dock, wedged as tightly as sardines in a box, the filthy prisoner cheek by jowl with the clean. Behind the dock rail usually stand an equally densely packed crowd of the prisoners' friends, and as electric fans revolve only over the magistrate's bench and the solicitors' table, and prisoners and public are at this time of the year bathed in perspiration, the imagination of even the least imaginative reader will be capable of realising something of the hygienic conditions of the Court. I do not know why so many prisoners are brought into Court to listen, under the conditions I have described, to cases which do not concern them, but the packing of thirty-five prisoners in a squatting position, into a dock which I suppose does not measure more than 12ft. by 4ft., appears to me, apart altogether from hygienic considerations, simply disgraceful in a British Court of Justice. I have seen it in no other Court in Europe or in Asia, though I have to own I have no acquaintance with the native Courts of China, whence the practice may have been copied; it is certainly un-English. [The Chinese courts, either pure or "Mixed," are not disgraced in comparison.—Ed.]

The Y.M.C.A. is no doubt fulfilling a very useful mission in Hongkong, but I had an inadequate idea of its usefulness until I read the other day in a Straits paper that a stowaway who came before the Court there "had confided in Captain Buller, of the *Kunming*, that he had been recommended to stowaway on his ship by

the Y.M.C.A. branch at Hongkong." As the *Straits Times* remarks, Hongkong has long been the dumping ground of all the beachcombers in the Far East; but while sympathising with us in our affliction, it hopes that we will not pass any more of our proletariat on to Singapore. Evidently, there is room for a branch of the Y.M.C.A. in the Southern port where the practical application of the injunction "Bear ye one another's burdens" is so flagrantly discouraged. [We do not recommend readers to place credence in the fellow's statement. It is not likely the Y.M.C.A. officials would so advise anybody. Ed.]

There is going the rounds just now a story which is curious whether true or not; namely, that a man who deserted from the Service recently made himself up so as to be unrecognisable and then joined the local police. Certainly there would not be much point in the story if it ended there, but the funny thing about it was that the very first charge he got from his superiors when he went on patrol was to arrest himself, the deserter, with a description of whom he was supplied. Whether he took himself into custody or not has not transpired.

During those choppy days in the harbour which have been experienced of late, the need for some landing-place for sampans on the Kowloon side has been made more than ever patent. It does not so much matter about the belated Victorian who misses the last ferry, for it is generally his own fault if he has to risk walking that 12-inch plank to the lighter or getting down the perpendicular ladder on the Praya wall to the sampan. But when anyone wants—and sometimes ladies do—to get from Kowloon to a steamer lying in the stream one has either to come to this side first or else risk the same embarkation dangers, which are bad enough in daylight and really terrible in the dark.

The "Star" Ferry Co. are doing a great deal to improve their service. They are making arrangements to run later boats than at present, and will start a five minute service when the demand justifies such a step. The ferry-boats themselves are a credit alike both to their owners and the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., the builders. During rain-showers everything is done that could be done to protect passengers who do not care to go in the cabin from the rain; and men are constantly employed swabbing the decks and wiping the seats. There is one little matter, however, I want to complain of, and that is the absence of lights at night. The deck is left in darkness, or almost so, for it requires a second light to discover the sooty kerosene lamp in the cabin. Many passengers would like to read their papers on the ferry.

The B. & A. Department is doing excellent work in making our streets look more presentable. The little trees planted by the tram lines in the Western District give the place quite an attractive appearance. Trees are being planted in the streets wherever there is room for them.

As was announced in these columns the other day, the ex-Namhoi Magistrate, after his trial at Macao, has been handed over to the authorities in Canton, on the usual condition, insisted upon by European countries and America, in extraditing prisoners to China, that he shall not suffer torture or capital punishment. Yet a Hongkong man just down from Canton tells me that he saw the ex-Magistrate, dressed in silks, sitting on the bridge near Shameen with a huge wooden collar round his neck; and it was common talk among the Chinese there that the unfortunate man was to be beheaded in a few days.

BANYAN.

The cotton mill owners in Kansai district believe that the war will decidedly promote the consumption of Japanese goods, especially cotton textiles, in China. Prompted by this belief, states the *Japan Times*, the Miye Boseki Kaisha has ordered 700 looms, the Osaka Boseki Kaisha 800 looms, and the Wakayama Boseki Kaisha 85 looms for weaving purposes, and other cotton mills are following this example. All of them will be able to turn out cotton fabrics early next year.

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, 13th August.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(PUISNE JUDGE.)

DAMAGES FOR WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT.

Augustus Mason sued A. C. Davis for \$1000 for wrongful imprisonment and malicious prosecution. Mr. H. K. Holmes, solicitor, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. H. G. C. Bailey of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, solicitors, for the defendant.

Mr. Holmes in his opening statement said that on the 26th July, about seven o'clock in the evening, near the Hongkong Hotel, defendant gave the plaintiff into custody stating that he had stolen his watch and chain. Plaintiff was taken to the Police Station and detained till the following morning, when the Magistrate heard the case and dismissed it. The depositions taken by the Magistrate having been put in.

The plaintiff was called. He deposed that he was the representative of the Manila and Philippines Directory, and was also connected with the advertising business. He first met the defendant about a week or ten days before the 18th July and had been to his room about twice. They were not particularly friendly. On the 26th ult., they were having a drink together in the public bar of the Hongkong Hotel, when suddenly Davis remarked that he could not leave the hotel as he had all the doors guarded. Witness laughed at the joke, whereupon Davis in a loud voice said that he had his watch and chain. Witness answered that he did not care for jokes of this kind and told him to stop it. Davis was intoxicated, so witness left the hotel in disgust. He walked out to Queen's Road and whilst passing the Clock Tower, he was stopped by a Sikh police constable. He was taken to the Central Police Station, charged, and divested of all he had in his possession and locked up in a cell. Afterwards he was offered bail in \$2,000, but at such an hour he could not obtain it. As the result of his appearance in the Court he had suffered in his business as an advertisement canvasser.

Mr. Bailey, for the defence, said he was in a very awkward position as his client was away in Shanghai. He was a commercial traveller and could not wait.

His Lordship asked if he had left after service of the writ?

Mr. Bailey—Yes, my Lord.

His Lordship—He ought to have stayed.

Mr. Bailey for the defence submitted that the plaintiff had not proved malice as he was bound to in a case of false imprisonment. Defendant charged the plaintiff because he honestly believed him to have stolen the watch and chain. He was not actuated by any malice and had nothing to gain by the prosecution and had had no quarrel with the plaintiff. He quoted several judicial opinions and argued that the plaintiff had failed to show malice.

Mr. Holmes in his reply said that the defendant had acted in a most reckless manner.

His Lordship in his judgment said it appeared that the parties had known each other for some time, and that on July 26 they met in the Hongkong Hotel bar. While seated at a table with two other persons defendant said to plaintiff, "I have got the place watched. I have got the doors guarded. You have taken my watch and chain." Plaintiff treated the remarks as a joke and subsequently left the hotel. When he reached the Clock Tower he was hailed by an Indian constable, with whom was defendant. Defendant instructed the constable to take plaintiff into custody and accompanied them to the Police Station. Here plaintiff was searched, articles being taken from his person, and cast into a cell, where he was forced to remain until the next morning, seeing that he was unable to get the amount of bail required, £2,000 cash. On the charge being laid before the Magistrate defendant expressed a wish to withdraw it, but the Magistrate compelled him to go on with it. At fifth time the case was adjourned until the afternoon, but defendant did not put in an appearance and the plaintiff was discharged. A private person was

when a felony had been committed and there justified in ordering the arrest of any person was reasonable and proper cause for suspecting that the person arrested had committed the felony. The question in this case was whether there was reasonable and proper cause for the arrest of Mason. The law threw the whole of the onus upon the plaintiff, who had to prove that the defendant preferred a charge of a criminal nature against plaintiff before a judicial officer. There was no doubt that defendant did prefer a criminal charge against plaintiff before a judicial officer, a Magistrate. The plaintiff had to prove that the proceedings terminated in his favour. He must also prove that he had suffered in person, reputation and pocket by the bringing of the charge against him. There was no doubt that he suffered in person; he had not shown that he suffered in pocket; probably, he had suffered in reputation. The next two things he had to prove was that defendant acted maliciously and that he acted without reasonable and proper cause. There was a total absence of reasonable and proper cause for defendant acting in the manner he did. After a few days' acquaintance the defendant charged the plaintiff with stealing his watch and chain, and his Lordship was satisfied that there was no reasonable and proper cause for the prosecution. With regard to malicious prosecution, it was difficult to say what motive actuated the defendant in instituting the prosecution against the plaintiff. His only motive was not for the purpose of bringing the plaintiff to justice; it might have been that defendant was displeased with plaintiff. He was satisfied that defendant acted with malicious and improper motives, and he accordingly gave judgment for plaintiff for \$500 with costs.

Monday, 15th August.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

CLAIM FOR COMMISSION.

The adjourned hearing was heard of the case in which Lau Kam Sing sued Tsang Keng for \$265.60, being commission on the purchase by the defendant of 9,000 barrels of Portland cement. Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. H. Hursthouse, of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley, solicitors, for the defendant.

Plaintiff was compradore of Dan Chee and Co. Defendant was a contractor carrying on business here. Some time in July, 1902, defendant entered into a contract with Dan Chee & Co. for the purchase of 9,000 barrels of cement. He was introduced by the compradore, and the compradore claimed from him in respect of that purchase commission at the rate of one-half per cent. on the price. There was no specific contract to pay this money, but there was the usual custom of the trade here, and the custom was that where a Chinese firm was introduced to a firm carrying on business here through a compradore, and the compradore guaranteed the contract, he should be entitled to charge the purchaser a percentage on the purchase.

The defence was that it was not a question of custom with Chinese in these matters, but whether it was in consonance with British law and reasonable in this case, as the plaintiff had had nothing to do with this contract being entered into and did not even act as interpreter at the introduction.

Owing to the absence through sickness of one of the witnesses for the defence, Mr. Wright, the hearing was adjourned when up for hearing last.

Mr. Hursthouse put in the affidavits with respect to Mr. Wright, who is not yet out of hospital.

The defendant gave evidence to the effect that when he made the bargain to buy the cement he did not consult the defendant, nor did he employ him in any way in the transaction, or promise him commission.

His Lordship, after hearing the evidence, found as facts that the compradore did not introduce the customer to the firm of Dan Chee, Son, & Co., nor become surety for Tsang Keng, and that there was no contract between the parties. An attempt was made to

set up a custom of trade. A custom can be annexed to a contract if not contrary to it, but a mere custom cannot bind either party unless there is a contract between the parties. There must be some consideration, and the plaintiff did nothing. When there is introduction, the custom might be enforced; even in this case, if there had been an express promise to pay, it would have been invalid for want of consideration, and an act which a compradore was legally bound to do could not form the consideration for an independent contract.

Judgment for defendant, with costs.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR W. M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

A CLAIM FOR RICE.

There was down for hearing before His Lordship the Chief Justice the case of Kam Tak Tai against A. M. Essabhooy, in which the plaintiffs claimed \$7,352, being balance due for rice sold and delivered. Messrs. Dennys and Bowley, solicitors, were the agents for the plaintiff, and Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, solicitors, for the defendants.

This action, which was fixed for hearing yesterday (Monday) morning, was settled between the parties a short time before his Lordship intended to come into Court to hear the case.

Tuesday, 16th August.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

SUIT FOR RECOVERY OF MONEY DEPOSITED.

Chan Kan Sing sued Ngai Leung Choi for the return of \$250, being money paid on deposit. Mr. P. W. Goldring, solicitor, of Mr. John Hastings's office, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Otto Kong Sing, solicitor, for the defendant.

Mr. Goldring stated that the money had been deposited under an agreement for the purchase of certain land in the New Territory. The contention was that a proper title for the land was not furnished. When the money had been paid over, enquiry into the documents showed that no Crown lease had been granted in respect of the property.

His Lordship, after hearing the evidence, reserved judgment.

Thursday, 18th August.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR W. M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

CHARGE OF CHILD STEALING.

Chau Hong, a middle-aged Chinaman, was charged with having on 23rd December stolen a seven years old boy named Li Mau Lam with intent to deprive the mother. Chan Yau, of the possession of the child.

He pleaded not guilty, stating that he was not in Hongkong but in Singapore at the time.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. S. A. Seth, T. Browne, A. B. Rouse, E. H. Ray, W. F. Gardner, G. W. Binder, and J. W. Crouch.

Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley, Attorney-General, appeared for the Crown (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor). In his opening statement he said that while the boy was playing about in the street prisoner came up to him and asked him to go to the theatre. The boy went with him, and was taken over to Kowloon, where he was detained for five days by the prisoner, after which the prisoner took him to Samchun City and sold the boy for \$60. About three weeks afterwards the mother learned of the whereabouts of her child, and on going to Samchun found the boy there. She informed the police, and the prisoner's father was arrested. On 20th July prisoner was found at Shatin. Prisoner's defence was that it was a case of mistaken identity so far as he was concerned that he was at Singapore at the time. The purchaser stated that he thought he was buying

the child from the father. As a matter of fact the father of the child was dead.

Evidence was taken.

His Lordship in the course of the hearing of the case remarked that he would like the Chinese in this Colony to understand that such a thing as buying and selling children was quite unknown to the law here. The law did not allow any such proceeding. A child was not a subject of sale like goods and chattels. You might adopt, but you could not buy a child.

The jury after hearing the evidence found the charge proven.

Chau Hong, alias Ho Hong, was afterwards charged with having on 14th July stolen from Hongkong in company with Chan A Sam two children aged eight and four years respectively.

Chau Hong pleaded guilty, Chau A Sam not guilty.

The evidence went to show that the prisoners inveigled the children over to Yaumati, promising to give them fruit, and when they got the children over there took them into the country.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty as libelled.

The Attorney-General said there was a previous conviction for kidnapping against the first prisoner.

His Lordship said it was a pity he had not been deported.

The Attorney-General put in a previous conviction against the first prisoner for kidnapping.

The Chief Justice in passing sentence said the first prisoner had already been convicted for kidnapping a child. He evidently made a trade of this sort of thing. On the first charge he would sentence the prisoner to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, and on the second charge to three years' imprisonment with hard labour; and he would ask the police to take note that these terms of imprisonment would run consecutively—that was, five years altogether. He could have got fourteen years, but his Lordship did not think it would do any good to give him that; and he thought the Colony would be well rid of him. In his opinion the prisoner should be deported at the end of his term. His Lordship was sorry that he was not able by law to order the prisoner to be flogged. He sentenced the second prisoner to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

CHARGE OF ASSAULT.

Tong Yau Tak was charged with having assaulted Man Tim Kau.

He pleaded not guilty, and said that he was first assaulted by the complainant, and struck him back again.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. J. Cruikshank, R. Israel, F. A. Brown, J. Smith, E. Meyer, C. H. Lammert, and W. B. Boyce.

The Attorney-General said the prisoner was charged with wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm. Prisoner and complainant were neighbouring farmers at Santin. Complainant said that on the day in question they were both working in the fields when the defendant cut a hole in the boundary bank to let the water run into his fields. Prisoner expostulated, whereupon the prisoner came at him with a chopper and chopped him, cutting off two fingers. The wounded man was taken in a semi-conscious state to the Civil Hospital. Prisoner's account before the Magistrate was that the thing was an accident and that he inflicted the wound in self-defence. The medical evidence showed that the character of the wound was such as to lead to the conclusion that prisoner had inflicted it with intent to do grievous bodily harm. The wounded man had been in hospital for 68 days and had not yet properly regained the use of his injured leg.

The jury found the charge proven, and his Lordship passed sentence of 18 months' imprisonment with hard labour.

EMBEZZLEMENT.

Cheung Tak Hang, alias Cheung Chuk Yu, was charged with embezzlement, entering forged receipt for money (two counts), and obtaining property upon forged instruments (two counts). He pleaded guilty to obtaining, by false pretences, the sum of \$261.50.

The Attorney-General withdrew the other two charges.

The Chief Justice in passing sentence stated that prisoner had appropriated to his own use this money belonging to his master. He spent the money in extravagant living; for among the items of his expenses were \$250 for the ransom of a girl, \$100 for wine, and \$200 for presents. His salary was \$14 a month with \$3 extra for night work. Therefore he must have known that he could not indulge in extravagance of this kind and still be honest. His Lordship took into consideration the fact that the prisoner was only 22 years of age, and although the maximum punishment was 14 years, he would pass sentence of 12 months on each of the three counts—in all three years.

ROW IN A BARBER'S SHOP.

Hau Woo was charged with having on 5th August assaulted Sam Kee and wounded him with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

He pleaded not guilty, stating that he went to get shaved, that he had trouble with complainant, and that the latter got cut.

The following jury were empanelled:—Messrs. J. S. Levy, A. Loureira, J. Cruikshank, C. Konig, E. A. Grigson, K. Sayce and J. E. Bingham.

The Attorney-General in opening the case said that during the course of a quarrel which the prisoner had with another man in a barber's shop he inflicted upon the other man wounds with a chopper, causing the latter to lose two of his fingers. The quarrel, it appeared, was as to who should be shaved first. Prisoner stated that in the course of the quarrel complainant cut himself with a razor. But according to the medical evidence the wound was not such as to be inflicted by a razor cut.

The jury, after hearing evidence, found the prisoner guilty of unlawful wounding.

His Lordship said he quite agreed with the verdict, which he thought was the safest one in the circumstances. But it was more like a savage than a man to attack another with a chopper. Why not hit him with your fist or with a stick. Sentence—18 months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Friday, 19th August.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR W. M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

FORGING A CHEQUE.

Lam Fat was charged with having on 15th July uttered a forged bill of exchange purporting to be a cheque for \$20 drawn by John Cronin on the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank with intent to defraud, he knowing the same to be forged; also with having obtained the sum of \$20 on presentation of the cheque.

He pleaded guilty, stating that he knew the cheque was forged and that it was given to him by A Wing.

His Lordship in passing sentence said that the prisoner and another messenger in the Naval Yard were parties to forging a cheque. Prisoner admitted that he saw it forged and then went and passed it over as a good cheque, the complainant having left his cheque-book for a short time in an unlocked drawer by accident. Prisoner got \$10 of the proceeds, and promptly spent it the same evening in gambling, with the exception of \$1.25. He was placed in his present position by his love of gambling. This was such a serious offence in a large commercial community like Hongkong that it had to be punished very severely indeed. He always tried to find if there were any mitigating circumstances in a case. He would bear in mind that the prisoner was only 19 years old, that he had pleaded guilty, and had not denied the offence; and he thought the justice of the case would be met by a sentence of 18 months' imprisonment with hard labour. Prisoner, he remarked, would have got a much more severe sentence if he had not been so young.

THEFT OF WATCHES.

Lo Wai was charged with having on 20th July broken into the store of J. A. Rombach, in Queen's Road Central, and stolen 134 watches, valued at \$450, and a handkerchief, and Chu Pun and Lo Wai were charged with having received 18 watches and the handkerchief, knowing them to have been stolen.

They pleaded not guilty.

The following jury were empanelled:—Messrs. W. B. Boyce (foreman), A. E. Katsch, V. de Marney, B. D. Kapteyn, F. S. Levy, C. Konig, and C. J. F. Mittell.

The Hon. Attorney-General, Sir Henry S. Berkeley (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), appeared for the Crown. In opening the case he said the prisoners were charged with having been concerned in an extensive jewellery robbery. On 20th ult. Mr. Rombach left his shop late in the afternoon and went out with a bathing party, taking with him his house-boy. On returning he found that his shop had been broken into and the thieves had taken away a white handkerchief, which had been left on the desk, and some 134 watches. There was no trace of the robbers to be found for some days, but on the 24th ult., from information received, the police arrested the prisoner Lo Wai and found two of the stolen watches and the handkerchief in his possession. On searching round the pawnbrokers' shops they found 16 more watches. Four of the pawnbrokers identified the first prisoner as the man who had pawned the watches. Two identified the second prisoner as the man who had pawned two watches under a false name. Both prisoners lived with Mr. Rombach's house-servant, who had gone with his master to the bathing party. At first, suspicion rested on the house-boy, and it rested upon him still, for being implicated in the affair, he was arrested, but had to be discharged because there was not sufficient evidence against him. When charged at the Magistracy the first prisoner admitted having taken part in the robbery, but said he only waited outside while three others went into the store. The fact that some of the stolen goods were found immediately afterwards in the possession of the prisoners was sufficient to justify the jury in finding them guilty of the robbery itself; at any rate they should be found guilty of receiving.

The jury found both prisoners guilty.

His Lordship sentenced the first, Lo Wai, to seven years' imprisonment with hard labour; and the second, Chu Pun, to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, recommending both for banishment at the end of their respective terms of incarceration.

This concluded the list of cases and the Sessions adjourned.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At a monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held in the Chamber Room, City Hall, on Tuesday, 12th July, 1904, at 3.45 p.m. Present:—Mr. E. A. Hewett, Chairman, Mr. D. R. Law (Vice-Chairman), Hon. W. J. Gresson, Messrs. N. A. Siebs, J. R. M. Smith, H. L. Tomkins, R. C. Wilcox, A. G. Wood, Hon. R. Shewan (ex officio), and A. R. Lowe (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 7th June were read and confirmed.

THE CHAMBER'S REPRESENTATIVE IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Chairman said he felt quite safe in expressing the pleasure it gave the Committee to see Mr. Shewan looking so well after his holiday at home. It was decided to send Mr. H. E. Pollock a letter of thanks for his services on the Committee during Mr. Shewan's absence.

QUARANTINE.

Letters were also read from the Hon. Colonial Secretary communicating the fact of the authorities at the undermentioned places having declared Hongkong infected by plague:—

Date 7 June	Saigon.
7 ..	Siam.
15 ..	Indo-China.
23 ..	Saigon.
29 ..	British North Borneo.

BLUE BOOK ON COTTON CULTIVATION.

The Board of Trade Report on Cotton Cultivation in the British Empire and Egypt, which had been courteously forwarded to the Chamber by the Hon. Colonial Secretary, was laid on the table.

EMPIRE CABLES.

The following letter was read:—
The Board of Trade of the City of Ottawa.

Ottawa, Ont., April, 1904.

To the Secretary.

SIR.—I have the honour on behalf of the Board of Trade of the City of Ottawa to request that you will bring the enclosed communication on the subject of "The Empire Cables" to the attention of your Association.

We entertain the hope that in the effort to advance the general interest, your co-operation may be counted on.

Be good enough to inform me of whatever action your Association may take, and by so doing greatly oblige

Your faithfully,

(Sd.) CECIL BETHUNE, Secretary.

P. S.—I am requested to add to what is stated in the enclosed printed explanation, that the Empire Cables would, it is believed, directly on their completion reduce charges on long distance messages 50 per cent., to be soon followed by a still greater reduction. The supreme importance of cheap telegraphy all round the Empire will be obvious to our people elsewhere.

(Sd.) CECIL BETHUNE.

It was agreed to reply that this Chamber sympathised with any scheme which had for its object increased facilities for telegraphic communication, but being a cosmopolitan Chamber, the Committee were more inclined to encourage "free trade in cables" as recommended in the British Inter-Departmental Committee's Report on Cable Communications laid before the Houses of Parliament in May, 1902.

COMMERCIAL EDUCATION AT SINGAPORE.

The report of the Examiners on the result of the examination for the commercial certificates of the Chamber was read, showing that 16 persons, aged 17 years and upwards, sat for the examination in English, Handwriting, Arithmetic, Typewriting and Shorthand, of whom 6 were granted certificates of competency.

PROPOSED COLONIAL AND INDIAN EXHIBITION.

The following correspondence was read:—
Colonial Secretary's Office.

30th June, 1904.

SIR.—I am directed to forward for the information of your Chamber the enclosed copy of a letter from the Commissioner of the proposed Colonial and Indian Exhibition together with a syllabus broadly sketching the objects for which it is proposed to hold the Exhibition.

I shall be glad to be favoured with any remarks which your Chamber may be good enough to make with regard to the scheme.—
I have, etc.,

(Sd.) A. M. THOMSON.

Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

(Enclosure)

Crystal Palace Company.

14, Victoria Street, Westminster,
23rd April, 1904.

SIR.—I am desired by the Directors of the Crystal Palace to forward you two copies of a scheme for a Colonial and Indian Exhibition, which will be held at the Crystal Palace during the summer of 1905, and to ask that you will be good enough to bring it before your Government with a view to their taking part in the Exhibition.

The objects of the proposed Exhibition are fully detailed in the enclosed prospectus, and I am to ask you to impress upon your Government the many advantages, direct and indirect, likely to result from their sending to the Crystal Palace a representative collection of such of the products and manufactures of your Colony which will bring before the people of the United Kingdom the resources and capabilities of your Colony, and are at the same time likely to obtain a remunerative market in this country.

In the event of your accepting in principle the policy of being represented at this Pan-Britannic Exhibition, the question of expenditure would next have to be considered, and I am glad to be able to point out that the architectural surroundings of the Crystal Palace render it unnecessary to make any considerable disbursements in the way of decoration, and that little further expense is necessary beyond payment for the space, the freights and insurance of the exhibits, their installation, and a moderate sum for keeping them clean. The heavy outlay made at Paris, Chicago and St. Louis, as well as the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886, is quite unnecessary.

It is proposed to appoint juries which will submit the various objects exhibited to an exhaustive examination, and will award to them diplomas commensurate with their merit.

As the Exhibition will open in little more than twelve months from the present date, my Directors are desirous of obtaining the decision of your Government as speedily as possible.—Yours, etc.,

(Sd.) GEORGE COLLINS LEVEY.

The Officer Administering the Government of Hongkong.

It was decided to reply that the Committee sympathised with the objects of the exhibition, and that the Registrar-General of Chinese might be instructed by the Government to place before the Chinese the advantages to be gained by sending exhibits of blackwood, ivory ware, silver ware, etc.

CLAYTON APPARATUS FOR DISINFECTING SHIPS.

The following letter was read:—

Colonial Secretary's Office.

6th July, 1904.

SIR.—I am directed to forward for the information of your Committee a copy of a report by the Port Health Officer, Singapore, relative to the Clayton Apparatus for disinfecting ships.

The question of the advisability of introducing the apparatus into this colony has for some time been engaging the attention of the Government, and it is proposed in the event of its adoption, to levy fees on ships disinfected in order to cover expenditure. The use of such an apparatus it is thought would be willingly availed of by vessels in this port during plague seasons, as quarantine restrictions would presumably not be insisted on by other ports if a ship could produce a certificate that all the rats, etc., had been destroyed before the ship had left the ports and the holds thoroughly disinfected.

I am to state that I shall be pleased to have an opportunity of considering any observations which your Committee may be good enough to make in connection with this proposal.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant.

(Sd.) A. M. THOMSON.

Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

[Copy]

We have Clayton Machine type B fitted on a steam launch which makes 7 knots under her own steam. The launch's steam is also used for running the engine of the disinfecter.

The whole machine has proved very satisfactory and is economical in use.

About 300 lbs. sulphur is sufficient to fill all the holds of a big steamer.

Each hold can be filled in from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ hour.

The percentage of gas can be regulated easily.

About 3 to 4 per cent. is strong enough for vermin destruction, but 10 per cent. at least is necessary for bactericidal effect.

All the surfaces of the 'tween decks, etc. which are to be disinfected are at first washed with perchloride or Jeyes and the S. O. fumigating started while all is wet.

The holds are battened down for at least 12 hours after the requisite amount of gas has been pumped in, then opened up and washed with disinfectants.

The S. O. is found to damage scarcely any cargo except a few foodstuffs such as tea; bleaching does not occur if articles are dry.

The machine is easy to work and full instructions are supplied with it. The cost is I believe £1,000. The gross weight is 70 cwt. Height, 4ft. 6in. Base dimensions, 10ft by 6ft. 8in.

It was decided to reply that the Committee saw no reason to alter the views expressed in 1902 that the use of the apparatus would inevitably involve the detention of steamers, and consequent heavy expense; and in the second place it would be impracticable because in most cases vessels calling here have large quantities of cargo on board for ports beyond this.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

The draft of a joint letter from the Shanghai, Tientsin, and Hongkong Chambers of Commerce addressed to the Diplomatic Body, Peking, having been received from the Shanghai Chamber, it was decided after some discussion to agree to the terms.

REGISTRATION OF CHINESE PARTNERSHIPS.

The Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to the strong terms in which the Chief Justice had recently referred to the necessity of registering partners in Chinese firms during the course of the Po Fung Bank case.

It was agreed to further discuss the matter at a later meeting.

INQUEST.

Re FRITZ EDWARD SHUSTER, DECEASED.

Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, acting as coroner, on the 15th inst. concluded the inquiry into the circumstances of the death of Mr. Fritz Edward Shuster, who met with his death on the 3rd inst.

Messrs. H. M. Webb (foreman), James Spencer Duff, and Geo. Banker were jurors.

Dr. E. A. R. Laing, medical superintendent of Government Civil Hospital, said: I examined Mr. Shuster's body between 9.30 and 10 a.m. on a day about the 3rd inst.; and found the man was dead. I then directed the constable to take the body on to the Public Mortuary. I should think life had been extinct any time from 15 minutes. I did not examine the body for wounds or marks but noticed a wound on the right temple. I cannot describe that wound—I just noticed it. I did not see any blood.

By Jury: The deceased was taken to hospital under an ordinary police order. I do not remember if anything was said about deceased. The symptoms described by the sergeant of police in his evidence would indicate that the man was dangerously ill. I did not direct that the deceased should be buried. I have nothing to do with demanding inquests.

By Mr. Gompertz: A man who had a fractured skull would be unconscious and breathe heavily. To a man who was not a medical expert the symptoms described would be taken as those of drunkenness if the man smelt of liquor.

By Jury: I think such a condition continued for eight hours, could be taken as a sign of drunkenness. A knowledge obtained by an ordinary course of ambulance lectures would not be sufficient to enable a man to distinguish between an ordinary drunken man and an unconscious man in such conditions.

By Mr. Gompertz: A drunken man may be unconscious for seven to eight hours.

By Jury: A drunken man can be unconscious. He can be roused for a moment if not heavily under the influence of drink.

Foreman: The former evidence we have had is rather contradictory.

Mr. Gompertz read Dr. Hunter's evidence.

By Mr. Gompertz: I do not disagree with Dr. Hunter. An unconscious drunken man can be roused by cold water and shaking, but he would lapse back into unconsciousness. He could not answer a question intelligibly.

Foreman: Who gave the burial order?

Mr. Gompertz explained that the officer in charge of post mortems made a report, and the body was buried in due course unless there seemed to be suspicious circumstances, or unless someone asked for an enquiry. An enquiry was not usually held unless it seemed that it was necessary to get to the bottom of some matter, or bring a criminal charge against someone, or to find out if death were due to causes such as would justify a jury bringing in a finding of criminal negligence. If any person offered to give evidence, or if anyone asked for an enquiry it would hardly be refused.

Foreman: Why refuse?

Mr. Gompertz: I said an enquiry would hardly be refused. In three cases I have sent to the relatives to ask if they desired an enquiry to be held; and they asked me not to hold one.

Foreman: Might I ask why the present enquiry is being held?

Mr. Gompertz said that on account of statements in the local Press suggesting foul play, and suggestions that deceased had had a fall off a tramcar, he ordered an enquiry. If the deceased was in a moribund state, and there had been negligence, or there were matters affecting the Public Works, enquiry should be held. In England a finding of manslaughter had been brought against the trustees of a public highway. A gentleman, a friend of the

deceased, said he would like an enquiry to see if the deceased should have been put in a cell.

Sergeant Lee was recalled.

By Jury: I was acting on my own opinion when I took the man to be drunk. The police did not have to go through a course of First Aid; I have not had an opportunity to do so.

Mr. Gompertz said to the jurors that if they had any witnesses they knew of they could call them. He would see what Inspector Gould had to say.

Inspector Gould said that on the morning of the 3rd inst., at about 8.30 a.m. he went to the cell along with Sergt. Lee, and saw the deceased lying there showing the described symptoms.

Mr. Gompertz: Describe them.

Inspector Gould: His face and forehead were hot, he was breathing heavily, and choking in the throat. I made out an order to admit him to hospital.

After asking several unimportant questions the jury retired for half-an-hour.

The finding was:—

We are of opinion that death was caused by fracture of the skull, and consequences arising therefrom due to an accidental fall.

We are of opinion that Sergt. Lee was neglectful, though not criminally so, in placing an unconscious man in a cell without trying to bring him to his senses, and not making himself fairly well acquainted at the time, and subsequently, whether deceased had returned to consciousness.

We are of opinion that the police authorities should take steps to see that every officer placed in charge of police stations be not deficient in a knowledge of First Aid to the Wounded, and that he is capable of distinguishing a case of drunkenness.

We think that the authorities were wrong in sanctioning the burial of the body without inquest, when the post mortem examination showed that death was caused by bodily injury and there might have been a possibility that the deceased's life would have been saved by timely, proper medical treatment.

We recommend that in cases of unconsciousness every effort should be made to restore consciousness, and if unsuccessful medical treatment should be called.

We consider that curbstones over byways below the level of the road should be protected.

Under the circumstances we think that some recompense should be made to Mrs. Shuster.

We think that police officers left in charge of responsible positions should be experienced enough to fill them.

[The fact that the jury's verdict was typewritten was noted as curious. It had apparently, judging from erasures and emendations subsequently made, been prepared before the formal hearing of evidence.]

Re UNKNOWN EUROPEAN, DECEASED.

Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, acting as Coroner, on the 7th inst. held an enquiry into the facts of the death of an unknown European, who was found with his throat cut on the New Road, Quarry Bay.

Indian Sergeant No. 619 said: On the 5th inst. I went on duty at 6 a.m. in Shau Wan District. At about 6.30 I arrived at the new dock. There I saw a European lying on the left-hand or dock side of the road. I went up to the body and observed a pool of blood; the blood was near the neck. I also saw a cut on the inside of the left arm, about half-way between the wrist and the elbow. As the body lay I could not see the wound on the neck. It was lying on the breast, so that the left eye was covered up. The two arms were crossed on the right side.

Mr. Gompertz: Just lie down on that table and show us how the body lay.

The witness did so.

Continuing, witness said: This knife (produced) was in his right hand. It was bloodstained from the point about half-way up the blade. A straw hat was about two feet from his head. I saw six footprints near the legs of the body. The ground there was soft; only the front part of the footprints were impressed, and not the heel. They appeared to be made by the same person, wearing boots. There were no other footprints. I searched, but there were no other marks. There was an Indian Dock watchman between 100 and 150 yards

from me. I called out to him, and told him to send a constable from the docks; there were two constables there. Indian Constable No. 842 came up. I told him to keep watch and not let anyone go near deceased. I then went to the station to make a report, taking the straw hat with me.

By Mr. Gompertz: The body lay about 15 minutes from Shauiwan Station.

Inspector Robertson: It is a mile and a half, Your Worship.

Witness: I reported to Inspector Robertson. He took a sampan to the spot, arriving there before me. I saw him turn over the body. He took the knife out of the hand. In one of the trouser pockets he found a small looking-glass, a brush and a comb. The Inspector got some rice and cement bags, which he placed over the body. He then stationed me over deceased while he went to get a box. This was a little after nine. The body was put in a box, carried to a launch, and sent to the mortuary. I went back to my station. That is all.

By Mr. Gompertz: I saw a wound on the neck when the body was turned over; it was bleeding a little. I think it was on the right side. The wound was big enough to put two fingers in; not more.

By Inspector Robertson: I was not told the body was there; I found it myself. The footmarks appeared to be the deceased's.

Mr. Gompertz: What made you think so?

Witness: They were made by boots.

Inspector William Robertson, in charge of Shauiwan Police Station, said: About 7 a.m. on the 5th inst. the last witness reported that a European male was lying in the road at Shauiwan. I immediately despatched European P.C. 69 with instructions not to let anyone touch the body. I followed and got to the New Road about 7.30 a.m. and found a European male, about 40, lying nearly on his stomach, head inclined to the right, arms crossed under the body, a wound on the left wrist, and blood on the throat. I did not see the wound on the throat till I turned the body over. In the right hand I found the knife produced, blade covered with fresh blood. There was also some blood on the first and second fingers of the right hand, and some on the back of the fingers. After I turned the body over I saw a cut on the throat; it was about 2½ inches long. Immediately below the wound on the chest was a large pool of blood. In deceased's pocket I found a pawn ticket for an umbrella, pawned in Queen's Road for \$1.75 on the 3rd inst.; and a ticket for a bed in the Soldiers' and Sailors' Institute. There was also a comb, a nailbrush, a pocket-knife, a mirror, a key-ring and keys, a cigarette holder, a pair of silver sleeve-links, a silk handkerchief, and a package of bromide of potassium bought at the Pharmacy. In line with the body I saw six dents in the ground, behind the body. If deceased crawled three short paces on his hands and knees the toe-marks could have been made.

Witness illustrated this by walking on "all fours" in front of Mr. Gompertz.

Witness: The deceased's clothing was not disarranged, and there were no signs of any struggle. I sent the body to the mortuary. The electric light shone between the slits in the fence, and the deceased might have crawled out of the light.

By Mr. Gompertz: The knife found in the man's hand has a crooked blade so as to allow it to fit into the handle. It was made that way.

Dr. W. V. M. Koch said: I was in charge of the public mortuary on the 5th inst. Between 11 and 12 a.m. that day I examined the body of an adult European male, apparently 40 years of age. I found the following injuries: Firstly, a transverse incision on the front of the forearm about two inches long and one inch above the wrist joint; it was a superficial clean cut just through the skin. Secondly, an incision about 2½ inches broad, starting from the middle line of the front of the neck running to the right transversely. This was on a level with the "Adam's apple." It had severed certain membranes, exposing the wind pipe, and, passing outward, exposed the superficial vessels of the neck. There were no marks of other injuries to the body. My opinion is that death was caused by hemorrhage due to the cut in the neck.

By Mr. Gompertz: Both wounds were probably caused by a knife like that (produced). In my opinion the wound on the neck was self-inflicted. The wound on the arm might have been inflicted first. It was superficial and could have been self-inflicted. A cut on the arm may be sufficient to cause death. If a man was inclined to commit suicide he might cut his arm first, and if that failed, he could cut his throat later. To cut the arm a painful incision would be necessary to cause death. The vessels of the arm are very well protected. One can get at the vessels of the throat more easily; and would not have the sight of the wound to terrify one. Deceased did not appear to be an alcoholic subject; it was a normally healthy body.

Mr. Gompertz: On the body was found some bromide of potassium? What do you think this was for?

Witness: Probably sleeplessness. A man who has been sleepless for a number of nights gets into that state that he loses control of himself. I do not know what that sort of a knife is used for.

By Inspector Robertson: In the case of a person dying from loss of blood, like deceased, a knife might very possibly remain in the hand. I should say that deceased had expired nine or ten hours when I saw him. Death would come very rapidly after a wound such as described. Consciousness would be lost gradually. Unconsciousness would become deeper as the blood flowed out more and more. Death would come in about 15 minutes.

European P.C. 69 said: About 7 a.m. on the 5th inst. I was informed that a European was lying dead on the road near Quarry Bay. I proceeded on my bicycle and found the man, with a wound in left wrist, and knife in right hand. I did not touch the body till Inspector Robertson arrived. We turned the body over and found a wound on the right side of the neck. There were six footprints near by, immediately behind deceased, apparently caused by deceased. The electric light from the Shipyard threw a ray of light behind where deceased was lying; but the place where the body lay was in the shade. When I arrived there were three European civilians, employees of Messrs Butterfield & Swire, on the scene, and an Indian. I was about four minutes getting from the station to the body. I did not allow anyone to touch it till the inspector arrived.

Mr. James Reidford Ritchie, a foreman mason at Quarry Bay Shipyard, said: I saw deceased's body at 6.45 on the 5th inst. in the New Road at Quarry Bay. An Indian constable and a Butterfield and Swire's watchman were standing by the body. I was going to work. Deceased was lying face downwards, face inclined to the middle of the road. The arms were crossed on the right side. There was a wound on the left wrist. In the right hand was a knife. There were a few footprints behind, in a line with the body, as if caused by the deceased's own feet. I saw a little blood on the knife, but could not see the wound.

By Mr. Gompertz: I could not see any other marks on the ground, but would have done so if there had been any. I did not see any marks of violence, other than those I have mentioned, on the body. There did not appear to have been foul play. There were no signs of violence. As far as I know I was the first European on the spot.

Mr. Gompertz: It was not your impression that the throat had been cut from ear to ear?

Witness: I did not see any wound there at all. A person could not have seen such a wound without lying close to the ground. I did not remain there long.

Mr. John Thomas Hoskins, chief foreman at Quarry Bay, said: On the 5th instant at five minutes past seven I saw the body. When I came to work the watchman was waiting to tell me a dead body was lying on the road. I went to see if I could do anything. When I arrived one of our Europeans, Mr. Morphew, was there. I saw a man lying there dead with a large cut on the left wrist and a knife in his right hand. It was a knife like that (produced). I also saw a large wound on the neck. The body was lying on the stomach, face rather inclined to the right. It had not been turned over. I knelt down on my umbrella to see the wound. I could not see the wound standing

up. I could not see how large the wound was, as I could only see one side of it. I should say it was from two to three inches long.

By Mr. Gompertz: I saw no other marks on the body. On the ground I saw eight marks, as if made by the heel. They were right behind him at his feet. I had the impression that they were made by deceased himself. I saw no marks of violence. When the body was turned over I saw his face turning black.

By Inspector Robertson: It was before the body was turned over that I saw the footmarks. The body was covered with sacks, but I lifted one up to see if I knew the man. I did not take any notice of the wound.

Inspector Robertson: Did you not inform Mr. McDonald about the matter?

Witness: No; I informed Mr. Clarke. I do not know who informed Mr. McDonald.

Inspector Robertson: In your report to Mr. Clarke did you say that the head was very nearly severed from the body?

Witness: No; I said it was a very big wound.

Inspector Robertson: Did you say it was a broken knife?

Witness: No.

Inspector Robertson: Did you say there were a lot of footmarks, indicative of a very foul murder?

Witness: No; I said there were a lot of footmarks caused by people going to see the body.

Inspector Robertson: Did you report that from the position of the body there appeared to have been murder?

Witness: No.

Inspector Robertson: Did you report that your watchman reported the matter to the police?

Witness: Yes; the watchman told me so, but I do not know.

Mr. Gompertz: Do you think there is any suspicion of murder?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gompertz: Did you think so at any time?

Witness: No.

Mr. Gompertz: Did you hear anyone express that opinion?

Witness: No.

An Indian watchman from the shipyard said: I was on duty from midnight to 8 a.m. on the 5th inst. At 6 a.m. I saw a dead body on the shipyard side of the road. I passed about seven paces away from the dead body, and went and reported to my head watchman, an Indian. Doola Singh was then sent to Shauiwan Police Station. I did not go near enough to see any wound on the body.

Mr. Gompertz (to Inspector Robertson): Who gave you the first information?

Inspector Robertson: Our own man.

Albert Slaney, a soldier of the Sherwood Foresters, in charge of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Institute, said: I made out this ticket (produced) on the morning of the 4th inst. A man came to me on the previous evening and asked if he could have a bed. I told him he was too late, all beds being taken. On the morning of the 4th inst. he booked a bed, went upstairs, and took a chair on the verandah. I went to him about an hour afterwards and he offered me 30 cents, saying he had not paid for the bed; but he had paid for it. When I came up again he was asleep on the bed. I went up again at about 10.30 a.m. and found he had gone. That was the last I saw of him. He did not have anything to eat. I did not ask his name; there are numbers on the tickets. The man was very quiet; he seemed very "down."

By Mr. Gompertz: He was about 35 years of age, fair, and had a moustache. He wore a straw hat. In height he would be about 5ft. 7in.; and of ordinary build. He was a complete stranger to me. I was wondering where he had got to that night (4th inst.) when I was collecting tickets. I think he was an Englishman. He left nothing. I think he had only about 50 cents. He said he wanted a bed for four or five days, but could not pay me then.

P.C. 63 said: On the afternoon of the 4th inst. I was on duty in the Charge Room. A European came in, and said he had no money. He wanted to know if the Government would pay his passage out of the Colony. He would not give his name, saying he was ashamed of being penniless. I pressed him two or three times for particulars concerning himself,

but he refused to give any. I asked him to await the arrival of the Inspector on duty, then in the Police Court. In the meanwhile he made another statement. He said that people in Queen's Road were throwing mud at him. He appeared to be down on his luck. After having consulted the Inspector on duty he went away, saying he would go to his lodgings. Next day I saw the report from Shauiwan Station, and something struck me that that must be the man. I went to the mortuary and found it was he in a navy blue jacket, buttoned up; black trousers, American pattern lace-up boots, a celluloid collar, flowered tie, and new straw hat. I interviewed all the beachcombers I could find, and also the Chinese restaurant keepers, but failed to find out anything about him. He spoke like an Englishman, but may have had a slight, acquired American twang.

Mr. Gompertz: Did he strike you as a seafaring man?

Witness: He had rather a gentlemanly appearance. He might have been a sea-captain. Some of these have a gentlemanly appearance; some have not.

Indian P.C. 842 said: On the morning of the 5th inst. I was called by a watchman, who said an Indian police-sergeant wanted me on the road. There was the body of a European there. Arriving on the scene I was told not to let anyone touch the body. The sergeant went to report.

Mr. Gompertz, sharply: A European said he knelt down close to the body. Is that doing your duty?

Witness: He was five yards away.

Mr. Gompertz: The evidence says that he went quite close to the body. Do you not know that marks might have been made?

The witness was silent.

By Inspector Robertson: The watchman called him at 6.30 a.m.

FINDING

Mr. Gompertz said: I find that death was caused by hemorrhage, from an incised wound in the neck, self-inflicted. I think that the case has been very carefully worked up by the police.

A European from the Quarry Bay Shipyard: What about our expenses? We have lost half a day, and expenses were incurred in transit.

Mr. Gompertz: I have no fund except the poor-box, which is for people not able to pay; if I had one I would give you something.

PUNJOM MINING CO., LD.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., was held on the afternoon of the 15th inst., in the Company's offices for the purpose of confirming a resolution for the winding-up of the Company, which was passed at an extraordinary general meeting held on the 28th ult. Mr. R. C. Wilcox (Chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. G. Murray Bain, S. A. Joseph, E. J. Judah, H. C. Wilcox, A. H. Ribeiro, C. A. Rosa, K. Sayce, Chan Tin, A. R. Lowe (secretary), and H. G. C. Bailey from Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master (solicitors to the Company).

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—The meeting called to-day is merely a formal meeting called for the purpose of confirming the resolution passed at the last extraordinary general meeting held on 28th July. There is nothing for me to do but simply to propose that the following resolution, viz.:—"That the Company be wound up voluntarily, and that William Kerfoot Hughes and Arthur Rylands Lowe, of Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, be, and they are hereby appointed, liquidators for the purpose of such winding-up," be now confirmed.

Mr. S. A. JOSEPH seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business of the meeting, gentlemen. It only remains for me to thank you for your attendance on this very hot day.

The Empress of China's gift of Tls. 10,000 to the Peking Hospital has been currently ascribed to imperial gratitude for successful treatment of one of her household slaves. The Hospital authorities explain (in the *N.-C. Daily News*) that the windfall should be really ascribed to the interest taken by Sir Ernest Satow, who has himself subscribed Tls. 1,000.

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAM-BOAT CO., LD.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

The seventy-sixth ordinary half-yearly meeting of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., was held on the 15th inst. in the Co.'s office, Bank Building. Hon. W. J. Gresson presided, and there were also present Messrs. N. A. Siebs, F. A. Gomes, E. Goetz, H. Schubart, Hon. R. Shewan, H. E. Tomkins, A. Haupt, E. R. Fuhrmann (directors), and Thos. Arnold (secretary), J. R. Michael, L. Berindoague, John Arnold, G. T. Veitch, J. S. Forrest, J. J. Leiria and G. de Champeaux.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—With your permission it will be convenient to take the report and accounts as read. The remarks made at our last meeting by my predecessor in the chair will probably, in a measure, have prepared you for the somewhat indifferent results now placed before you and I regret to say that, with so much opposition, there seems but slight prospect of any material improvement of earnings in the near future. By drawing on the depreciation fund for the cost of repairs we are able on this occasion to maintain the customary dividend, but the amount to be carried forward, you will observe, is comparatively small, so that we be in the current half-year under rather less favourable conditions than usual. Referring to the question of subsidised foreign competition, I may say that the resolution of the last meeting was duly acted upon. Copies of the minutes of that meeting with a covering explanatory letter were forwarded to the Colonial Secretary with the request that H.E. the Officer Administering the Government would be pleased to transmit the same to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies with such representations thereon as he might think fit to offer. In due course an answer was received from the Home Government, which however was not of a nature to encourage any hope of assistance from that quarter. The direct West River service which was resumed last April jointly with the Indo-China and China Navigation Companies has been in operation for too short a time to enable a correct estimate of its ultimate value to be formed. At present there are five steamers engaged in it, three belonging to the three companies and two under charter. To replace the latter it is in contemplation to build two suitable boats later on should the trade seem to warrant such a step. As stated in the report, we have acquired jointly with the China Navigation Company another valuable riverside property at Canton close to our wharves. When the bunding scheme now in progress is carried out we expect to be able to utilise these properties to the advantage of the Company; meanwhile, the tenements are let at rentals which ensure a moderate interest on the cost. With regard to our investments, they all stand upon a perfectly sound basis, the shares at rates well within their market value and the mortgages with ample margins for the sums advanced. Several large mortgages were paid off at the end of the half-year, and this accounts for the falling-off under that heading, but the greater part of the money was re-invested upon favourable terms early in the current half-year. With these remarks, unless further information be desired, I will propose the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. J. R. MICHAEL seconded, remarking that in view of the keen competition on the river the report ought to be considered satisfactory.

Mr. G. T. VEITCH moved the confirmation of the election to the Board of Directors of Mr. A. Haupt, Hon. W. J. Gresson, and Hon. R. Shewan.

Mr. L. BERINDOAGUE seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. T. S. FORREST moved that Messrs. H. Schubart and E. R. Fuhrmann, who retired from the Board by rotation, be re-elected.

Mr. J. J. LEIRIA seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. G. de CHAMPEAUX moved the re-election of Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts as auditors.

Hon. R. SHEWAN seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

This was all the business.

The CHAIRMAN stated that dividend warrants would be ready to-day (Wednesday) at 10 a.m. at the office.

FARNHAM, BOYD & CO.

Following upon the much-discussed question of the erection of a new dock at Kowloon, the following extracts from a letter written by "a small shareholder" in Farnham, Boyd & Co. may not be devoid of interest to Dock Company shareholders in Hongkong:—

"I should like to suggest that shareholders, before giving their consent to the sale of the Old Dock, should extract a promise from the directors to use the proceeds of the sale of the property to reduce the capital of the company by returning 25 taels per share to the shareholders. If, as it is reported, the Old Dock can be sold for one and a quarter million taels at least, it should not be difficult to raise another quarter of a million taels by selling the *München* and two or three other venerable vessels, belonging to the company. With a million and a-half of cash the capital could be reduced 25 per cent. and this reduction would at once place the company on a much firmer financial basis, while the market value of the shares at Tls. 75 would probably be as great as that of the present shares whose par value is Tls. 100. Having paid back 25 per cent. of the capital, the directors should be encouraged to continue the good work. By setting apart a quarter of a million taels per annum they could create a sinking fund which in a few years would enable them to return another 25 taels per share to the shareholder. The capital of the company would then be of a reasonable dimension, and handsome dividends might be expected; for it would be unnecessary to increase the reserve—(what is the cash value of this reserve? Can it be expressed in terms of gold or silver, or merely in scrap-iron?)—as the company possesses a large quantity of land, which is a valuable asset to-day, and which in a few years will be much more valuable. I fear to say more, lest I should get beyond my depth; perhaps I am already there."

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

August 6th.

LOSS OF A VALUABLE JUNK AND CARGO.

The loss of a junk from Kongmoon to this port and Yamchow, laden mostly with silk and cotton piece goods to the value of over \$200,000, is now confirmed. The junk left Kongmoon about the end of the 5th moon, having met bad weather on the way out, and while she was beating in near Sui-tung on the 2nd of the 6th moon, she was surrounded by five piratical crafts. After exchanging a few shots with the pirates, the junk was overpowered and taken, but curious to note, only the concubine of the junk's skipper was killed by a bullet shot during the short engagement. The pirates then proceeded to dispose of the cargo as well as they could on the spot and among the nearer villages at a very low rate until the 8th of the moon, when they left the junk, which still had undisposed cargo on board, to the care of the awe-stricken crew, who lost no time in putting out to sea again. After proceeding a few miles the junk foundered in deep water, as a leak had sprung in her bottom during the time she was captive, when she had settled on the sand at every ebb-tide. The crew saved themselves in boats and by clinging to spars. A few of the crew arrived here the other day and related their adventures. This is the first time that a Kongmoon-Pakhoi junk ever fell a prey to the pirates within the recollection of the oldest resident merchant in this port. The loss of the cargo on board this junk fell heavier on Yamchow than here, but anyhow it will doubtless shake the stability of a few less substantial piece-good shops in both ports. I hear it mooted that the merchants intend to bring future consignments in foreign bottoms, or at least on vessels propelled by steam, but whether it is possible remains to be seen, as there is the differential duty to be considered.

A TYPHOON NEAR PAKHOI.

On the 2nd instant the day broke suspiciously dull as if indicating an atmospheric disturbance of some kind near at hand. A slight N.E. wind was then blowing. As the day advanced the wind gradually veered to the S.E. and stiffening until dusk, by which time it was blowing a gale with occasional showers of rain, and continued till the morning of the 3rd. It was then apparent that nothing short of a typhoon must have been spending itself in the Gulf of Tonkin. The steamer *Hanoi*, from Hoihow to Haiphong, had to seek shelter in this harbour early on the 3rd. She left for her destination on the morning of the 4th, when the weather cleared up.

A BAD DREAM.

A married woman, who is said to have been haunted by ghosts or possessed by some evil spirits, in a dream recently cut off her own tongue. She was immediately taken to the Church Missionary Hospital, for initial treatment, in an unconscious condition, owing to immense loss of blood. She is still alive, and is able to take liquid nourishment, but can scarcely describe what really happened to her or what had influenced her to act in the rash way she did in severing the articulating member. Her relations have taken her home again.

13th August.

AN 'NTREPID SPORTSMAN MAULED BY TIGER.

Since I last reported to you about tiger hunting several other expeditions have been arranged to go to the village called Yik Má, a little over three miles from the town. The last expedition was that of a single gentleman, who took with him his boy and a few coolies on the afternoon of the 6th instant. According to preconceived arrangement as soon as he could localise any of the beasts he would send word to his companions to join him. Early on the morning of the 7th a coolie came on horseback to report that several tigers had been seen. His companions lost no time in proceeding to the spot, when to their surprise they found the sportsman had been mauled in the calf of a leg, and that he was almost in an unconscious condition. It appeared that while the coolie was on his way to call them the sportsman saw a tiger and fired at it with very good effect. The beast was seen rolling on the ground, snarling and growling with pain. The shooter waited; then approached the beast to see whether it was as dead as it seemed. Suddenly another tiger sprang from the bush and attacked him. Fortunately it confined its attention to his leg. The injured man was immediately brought home, and had his wound attended to, and is now gradually improving. This accident did not in the least deter others from going after the tigers, as it is reported there are five or six about the place. Further expeditions are being arranged to give the striped beasts a hot time of it, and by this time there are half a dozen gentlemen all eagerly looking for a trophy.

A HURRICANE IN PAKHOI.

The most violent typhoon ever experienced at this port within the recollection of the oldest residents, natives included, surprised us on the 10th inst. It was nothing short of the 1874 affair in Macao and Hongkong, except in duration. The glass began to fall early in the afternoon, and it went falling until it reached 28.90 or thereabout. As is usual, the wind commenced to blow with increased force after dusk, and by half-past eight the storm was unmercifully lifting tiles, chimneys, caps, and rendering the best waterproof roofs of the foreign dwellings leaky. Part of the walls of the French Post Office as well as that of the French School came flat to the ground. Messrs. A. Schomburg & Co.'s kerosene godown is almost roofless, while Mr. A. R. Marty's kerosene godown, probably because more exposed to the wind, was completely razed to the ground. Hundreds of native houses were totally wrecked, and others were rendered more or less uninhabitable. Three pawnshops of substantial construction, owing to their height, also had to yield to the force of the wind. Four or five big junks, outward bound, are reported missing. In the harbour one or two junks capsized, and about two dozen junks, including one guard-boat, were damaged. Fortunately the storm was of little over three hours' duration. Had it been longer I would have had quite a different narrative to give.

16th August.

SUICIDE OF A PRISONER.

Kwong Sü Lum was a monopolist holding the sole privilege from the Government to deal in brimstone and nitre in Limchow and to retail the same exclusively to the fire-cracker factories both there and in this port. The monopolist was arrested some time ago on a charge of supplying the pirates with these explosive components. He managed, however, to escape from the gaol the other day and drowned himself in a pond.

THE SUPPOSED LIBEL CASE.

As mentioned in mine of 26th ult. complaints were lodged at the German Consulate by the two offended parties surnamed Chui and Cha against the vernacular weekly, the *Tung Sai Sun Mun*, for publishing "insinuating inferences." The editor, a German gentleman, was summoned to appear at the German Consulate to offer explanations, when he declared that he was quite ignorant of the offending character of the paragraph or its purport, and that it crept into the paper without his knowledge or consent, but probably it was maliciously written and inserted for the purpose of damaging the popularity of his paper by a writer who had left his service scarcely a couple of days previous to the publication of the paragraph. The editor has tendered, however, a short apology in the following issue of his paper. Through the application of the Consul a warrant has been issued by the Sub-prefect of Limchow for the arrest of the writer of the paragraph, who is still at large.

THE LIMCHOW BRIBERY CASE.

This long-standing case has now come to a close. Chong Chan, the late Pakhoi Tze or magistrate, besides having to refund the amount of the bribe he had received for delaying execution of the warrant on the Kwong Cheong Hing shop and for other favours extended to the principal of the shop, is to be cashiered. Cheong Kwak Fong, the principal of the shop is question, was ordered to make a deposit of \$500 to pay rewards for the apprehension of the pirates who sold him the cow hides.

EMPEROR KWONG TSOI'S BIRTHDAY.

The 7th instant was the birthday anniversary of H.I.M. the Emperor of China. With the exception of a profuse display of bunting on the Imperial Maritime Customs flagstaff, with a big dragon flag on the top, the day passed without any public demonstration.

EXECUTIONS.

Three pirates were executed here on the 14th instant. Thousands of natives and a few foreigners went to see the sanguinary process. Immediately after the execution the soldiery scrambled on the corpses and disembowelled them to secure the heart, liver and gall of the delinquents. Such acts of barbarity should be put a stop to. They should never be allowed within a stone-throw of a foreign residence. The executions took place on a piece of vacant ground near the German Mission Establishments.

THE TYPHOON.

The typhoon which visited us on the 10th inst., of which I could only give you a scanty account, has caused other damages to property than those I stated in my last. It seems curious that all the newly-built brick fences around foreign residences collapsed like so many houses of cards, while those of some five or more years standing withstood the weather finely. The German Consulate, being of light materials, was considerably damaged. The loss of property in the whole town is estimated to be no less than \$400,000. Building materials have gone up in price threefold and building workmen are as arrogant as prince merchants. What with the work in the new buildings in the course of erection and others in contemplation which for want of contractors are not commenced, and with the now inevitable process of repairing broken houses, there is room for one or two contractors from other parts to come and enrich themselves.

The Health Officer at Shanghai reports thirteen foreign residents died there in July, and eight non-residents. Including Chinese, the total deaths were 627. There was one case of cholera and two of scarlet fever. The laundry men having all been properly licensed, more effective supervision is now possible.

CANTON.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.]

13th August.

THE SACRED HEART COLLEGE.

Having been established only a few months, this institution, which is under the charge of the French Fathers in Canton, will undoubtedly attain in the next few years the hopeful and desired aims of its founders and well wishers. It is very much liked by the natives, judging by the number of pupils, which is gradually increasing. When the college was first opened the number of boys who presented themselves for enrolment was nearly 150, and this has since been augmented to about 300, the daily attendance of regular students averaging 250.—On *d.l.* in addition to the tuition of the French and English languages, it is in contemplation to incorporate the teaching of the Russian, German and Japanese languages. In the recent examinations, most of the boys acquitted themselves very creditably.—The next term begins on the 1st September. To Monsgr. Morel, to whose initiative and untiring efforts the existence of the college is due, a word of praise is well deserved, and His Lordship as well as the teachers in general must be pleased with the good result of their work.

SCARCITY OF EUROPEAN HOUSES.

The European population in this city is steadily increasing, partly on account of the establishment of the Canton-Hankow Railway, and partly due to the advancement of trade, but the supply of suitable dwellings does not keep pace with the demand. The scarcity of foreign tenements is already keenly felt in Shameen, where there is no land available for new erections. There are some good vacant grounds in Honam and Fati, and some at Fong Tsuin in front of Shameen (the residential quarters of many wealthy natives who have recently returned from Australia, America and the Philippines, and who are carrying on their business on the spot). It requires only a move on the part of some enterprising land investors and capitalists for the acquisition of these grounds. Residences built thereon should yield a good profit.

The water which surrounds the vacant ground at Fong Tsuin is deep enough for vessels of large draft. The place named is also in close proximity to the Railway Station and the Asiatic Petroleum Company and on the opposite side lie the large godowns of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire.

TRAFFIC IN THE RIVER.

There is an entire absence of proper supervision over the boat population. The river boats, on the arrivals and departures, always encounter the greatest difficulty with the junks and other smaller craft which obstruct the way. Capsizes and collisions occur very often. It is certainly high time that the proper authorities should provide some regulations to stop the nuisance. Visitors to this place are warned that during the months of June, July and August, the tide and the current then prevailing are very strong and swift, and that it is very perilous to cross the river in small craft at these times.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TREE FELLING: STILL ANOTHER PROTESTANT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 12th August.

SIR,—Is it a case of new brooms sweeping clean, or of walking where angels fear to tread? On this tree question, I am on the side of the angels. Mr. Dunn, if allowed to run "amok," bids fair to sweep away, in as many weeks, the patient effort of thirty years. It cannot be because money is wanted for the department, for applications by residents to purchase seedlings and pot plants are either met with a refusal or partially executed with a very bad grace. Does the Botanical Department exist as a sinecure, or does it exist *pro bono publico*? Mr. Ford by supplying, even anticipating

the colony's wants, made one think the latter was the case.—Yours, etc.,

OLD BROOM.

The same correspondent encloses the following *jeu d'esprit*—an amusing paraphrase from "Pickwick":

"Oh! Ford if you'd known.
How false D. n had grown
(Or guessed that your trees he would butcher.
You'd have done then, I vow.
What you cannot do now.
And relinquished the business to Tut . . er."

TREE-FELLING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

12th August.

SIR.—I think with "Common Sense" and "Chips," that it is a great mistake cutting down these trees. Every year they become more valuable as they increase in bulk, much more valuable to the Colony, as a health and water giver, than selling them. The trees assist the ground to retain the rains, thus forming natural reservoirs. We shall then have continuous streams, sweeping away all mosquito breeding places, and giving us a plentiful supply of water.—Yours, etc.

OLD RESIDENT.

"MORE HURT IS WROUGHT BY WANT OF THOUGHT."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 13th August.

SIR.—I have found that the poor monkeys in the Botanical Gardens have not had a drop of water in their cell for the last three or four days. I have seen the poor creatures actually licking the empty water-pipe, and trying, to shake it to get water.

They had plenty of bread, biscuits, and bananas, but what is the use of all these things without water? I drew the attention of an Indian policeman to this. He only answered me "Am Ke Maloom Nae" (I don't know).

I will be glad if the secretary of the newly established Society for Preventing Cruelty to Animals will inquire into the matter. I remain, Yours, etc.,

M. A. MANARE.

[Now that attention has been twice called to these animals, surely their welfare has been looked after? Our correspondent does not say that he personally saw to the immediate provision of water, which he should have done if his emotions were as sympathetic as they appear to be indignant.]

A QUESTIONABLY CHEAP RIDE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

14th August.

SIR.—Actuated by the impulse toward novelty, and having postponed the hour of departure somewhat longer than we had intended, I and a friend decided to avail ourselves of Hongkong's latest acquisition, and to journey down to the concert at the Metropole by electric car, on Saturday evening. But the experiences that befel us may be calculated to induce a feeling of hesitation ere the plodding ricksha-puller and his jolting vehicle are again vetoed by us in favour of the electrically-driven method of locomotion.

A surging, evil-smelling crowd of Chinese were congregated in the vicinity of the stopping station outside the Hongkong Hotel, watching with keen interest the passing of the cars. A favourite pastime with these gentry appears to be to board the vehicle when it comes to a standstill, to saunter leisurely through the interior, and descend on the opposite side, the proceeding appearing to afford them considerable satisfaction.

It was about nine o'clock, and, surrounded by these Celestial gentlemen, we awaited patiently the approach of the car, thinking that whatever time might be lost at this stage might reasonably be expected to be regained when once we got under way.

A car at length approached from the direction of the cricket ground, heralded by a vigorous clanging of the warning gong. It was now that we obtained our first insight into the

original methods under which the company's servants are running the trams. The car exhibited a label indicating that its destination was Kennedy Town, and, as our route lay in the opposite direction, we made no attempt to secure a seat. Seized with a sudden inspiration that possibly, despite the index card, the car might be going to Shauiwan, we questioned the motor-man, and ascertained that such was the case.

We took our seats, the car filled, and we patiently waited for the starting-gong. It was evident, however, that expedition formed no part of the programme. On looking out of the window we perceived that another car had arrived from the same direction, and was directly behind us. Reasoning that the last arrival must naturally start first, we vacated our seats and changed cars. We certainly started first; but after proceeding about one hundred yards, our car switched off on the cross-over track, and stopped. Then we saw that our first choice after all was really making the journey first. Another hurried change of cars ensued, and, after a somewhat unceremonious entry, owing to the rapidly growing speed of the car, we congratulated ourselves on at last being well-started on our way. Such was not, however, destined to be. We made fitful progress to a point just beyond the Bowrington Canal, when the "conductor" informed us that he had "finished pidgin," and was going to take the car into the sheds. Here was a pretty pit! The passengers alighted; but the car suddenly resumed its journey, so we again got inside, thinking that this might be only another eccentricity. We went along in good style for a few hundred yards more, when the final stop took place, and we were compelled to alight.

After about fifteen minutes we succeeded in obtaining a double ricksha, and once more resumed our journey. Our progress now was slower, but was destined not to be accomplished without a little episode that came within an ace of finally preventing us reaching our goal.

It happened in St. George's Road. Our coolie saw a tram approaching, and despite the fact that it was evident the car would switch on to the cross-track, when there would not be sufficient room for our vehicle to pass between the car and curb, he held on with a strict adherence to the rule of the road. When too late, he saw the danger, and was about to halt on the cross track. Urgent shouts of "Fai-tik," impelled him onward reluctantly, and all seemed well, when the side of the tram caught the wheel of our "rick," overturned it, and precipitated us on to the path, happily without any damage ensuing.

We eventually righted the ricksha, and made the rest of the journey without further accident, reaching the Hotel shortly after ten, mentally uttering anathemas against both cars and ricksha-pullers alike.

It will indeed be a strange matter if you do not very shortly hear of some serious accident due to the lack of resource on the part of the ricksha-man and the asinine manner in which the man at the motor drives his car, without any idea of accommodating his speed to suit vehicles approaching.

As an instance of the lack of interest displayed by the collectors in their work, I might mention that we were not approached at any point of the journey for our fare, and enjoyed our eventful ride gratis. Assuredly improvements will have to be introduced before the trams can become popular. At present, the Chinese, official and un-official, seem to regard the new vehicles as playthings.—Yours, &c.

OMNIBUS.

THE DENUDATION OF OUR SLOPES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 17th August.

SIR.—I have read with much interest the discussion which has followed the attempt of the Superintendent of the Afforestation Department to prove that his is a revenue-producing department. Mr. Dunn's readiness to sacrifice all that goes to make the scenery of the island delightful and to render it healthful must have been a sad shock to lovers of nature. I hope that, in order to allay the apprehensions of the public, who are still in doubt as to the fate of the woods, one of the unofficial members of

the Legislative Council will address some inquiries on this important subject to the Government, who, I trust, will hasten to reassure the colonists.—Yours faithfully,

PINE.

TREE CUTTING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—I see Mr. Dunn when interviewed by a *China Mail* representative explained his apparent vandalism by saying he was following the course pursued in England. The excuse is a lame one. Nearly everything in England worth owning is owned by private individuals, who of course have to consider the £ s. d. point of view and sell valuable timber occasionally. The Botanical and Afforestation Dept. is not (Mr. Dunn notwithstanding) a private individual or a limited company with hungry shareholders, and why our beautiful hillsides should be ruined I fail to see. It would be interesting to know the price that has been paid for the devastation already caused—something paltry, no doubt, which will have no influence on the Colony's finances whatever. John Chinaman is wide awake enough to pay a little only of the value of the trees and to cut down three where one has been stipulated. Heaven help our poor hillsides if they are to be at the mercy of the dollar-worshipping Chinaman. If dollars are wanted why not sell the Gardens as building sites and dispense with the Botanical and Afforestation Dept. altogether?—Yours, etc.,

OLD BROOM.

THE N. D. L. "PRINZ HEINRICH."

INQUIRY INTO THE ACCIDENT AT GALLE.

The Receiver of Wrecks held an inquiry at the Customs office, Galle, on the 25th ult. regarding the accident to the N. D. L. *Prinz Heinrich* while off Dondra Lighthouse.

G. R. Meyer, sworn, stated:—I am Master of the ship. It belongs to Bremen. Her registered tonnage is 3,902 tons. I cannot say her official number. She is owned by the German Lloyd residing at Bremen. She was built in 1894. (The Commander was unable to give the number of officers, crew and passengers on board, but would send the particulars to the Receiver of Wrecks later on.) She had a general cargo and also mails and passengers. She was coming from Colombo, having left at 8-10 a.m. With her fine, light westerly breeze, slight swell and small rain showers. Her next port to touch was Penang. She was going at 14½ knots an hour. The accident occurred on Saturday, 23rd, at 2.10 p.m. The weather was fine with light westerly wind. The second officer, myself and four officers were in charge at the time. She struck at 2.10 p.m. on a submerged rock or wreck 5.55 North latitude and 8.27 East longitude 8 miles West from Dondra Head, and about 2½ miles from shore. It might be a rock or it might be a submerged wreck. There was no appearance of wreckage. Finding she was making water, I brought her back to Galle. Arriving here the same day at 6 p.m., she made 22 feet of water in half-an-hour. No services were particularly rendered by anyone. There was no loss on board. Some cargo was damaged by sea water. No lives were lost in consequence of the accident. We passed Galle Lighthouse at 1.10 p.m., about 2½ miles off it. Passed Woody Island 1.52 p.m., about 1½ miles off it. She struck at 2.10 p.m., about 8 miles from Dondra Lighthouse. Her course was South 75 degrees East 2. I was on the bridge the whole way from Colombo with 2nd and 4th officer. I gave no warning. There was no appearance of a breaker. I cannot say for certain on what she struck. No hint is indicated in the chart. She only heeled off. We were in deep water—20 fathoms, from the chart. No soundings were taken. I stopped engines directly. I thought there was something wrong in an engine. I sent down and found the engines were all right. I sent an officer and two carpenters to see how much water was there. There was about 6 feet of water at the first sounding. I ordered the boats off and sent men down again to see if any more water was coming. In half-an-hour carpenters

reported there was 22 feet of water. The rest of the ship was dry. The 2nd and chief officer had a conversation with me, and we came back to Galle at 6 p.m. The ship has been examined since, but I am not able to say at present what the damage is. The cargo was discharged and mails dispatched to Colombo. I say that this occurred on some rock or reef not on the chart. I used the course before. Last year I passed this. I passed Dondra Lighthouse at a distance of one mile last time. This time I was 2½ miles off. [The Commander suggested that an inspection be made of the spot.]

J. Henken, the second officer, gave corroborative evidence, and said he had been along this course many times.

Carl Beiser, Chief Engineer, said:—We left Colombo about 8 a.m. on 23rd instant. We were steaming at 14½ knots an hour. Everything went all right till about 2 o'clock. I felt some vibration and a shock. I was then in my cabin. I went to the engine. One was stopped when I came down and the other was stopping too. The machinery was all right. After one or two minutes it went again slow. We then turned and came back to Galle at a speed of about 13 knots an hour. Nothing was wrong with the machinery.

W. Henken—sworn—stated (through interpretation, Mr. J. Steiger interpreting): I was on the look out on the *Prinz Heinrich* on the day in question at 2 p.m. It was clear weather. We could see the shore distinctly. There was no broken water or rocks. I felt the ship striking, but could see nothing. I cannot say how far we were from land. Water was smooth.

Albert Jasker also gave his evidence through interpretation—sworn:—I am Quarter-Master on board the *Prinz Heinrich*. I was at the wheel at 2 o'clock p.m. Weather was clear. Sea slightly windy. Could see well ahead of the ship. I saw no rocks. We were about 2 miles or more from the shore. We were South 70 degrees by Compass East (tallies with captain's statement). Ship stopped her helm at once.

This concluded the evidence. The proceedings will be forwarded to the Principal Collector.

THE LATE MATTHEW W. BOYD'S WILL.

The testator of the will referred to by what follows was acting manager for the Chartered Bank at Hongkong in the early 'seventies, and manager at Shanghai from 1875 to 1882.

Judgment having been pronounced on June 13 in the action "*Symons v. Boyd*," in favour of the force and validity of the will, dated July 18, 1903, of Mr. Matthew Wightman Boyd, of the Thatched House Club, and late of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, a Scotsman by domicile, who died on October 25, 1903, at the Granby Hotel, Harrogate, probate has now been granted to Mr. John Symons, W.S., of Dumfries, power being reserved to grant probate also to the other executor, Mr. William Wood, of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China. Mr. Boyd's estate has been valued at £48,639 12s. 7d gross, and £48,365 6s. net, and he bequeathed £5,000 to be known as the "Boyd University Bursary Mortification" for bursaries for pupils, natives of Dumfries, who may have attended Dumfries Academy, at the Universities of Glasgow or Aberdeen. He bequeathed £2,000 to be known as the "Royal St. Mary's Manse Endowment," for an endowment in connection with St. Mary's *Quoad Sacra* Parish in Dumfries for the purpose of building a manse. He bequeathed £2,000 in trust to be known as the "Royal Mortification for the Parish of Torthorwald in the County of Dumfries," to mortify the same for ever, and apply the income as to one-fourth for coals, for poor necessitous natives of Torthorwald who have not been in receipt of parish relief, and as to the remaining three-fourths for the stipend or salary of the minister. Mr. Boyd left the ultimate residue of his property in trust as to one-fourth for a Boyd Endowment of the Dumfries Ragged School of the Dumfries Educational Society, as to one-fourth for a Boyd Endowment of Moorheads Hospital in Dumfries; as to one-fourth for a Boyd Endowment of the trusts of the Charity of David Johnstone of

Rigghead, Writer, and as to the remaining one-fourth for a Boyd Endowment of the trusts of the late Mrs. Mary Carruthers, of Warmanby.

HONGKONG CHILDREN AT GOVERNMENT LODGE.

On the 17th instant, at the Government Lodge on the Peak, by order of H.E. the Governor, Sir Matthew Nathan, a party of children was entertained with various juvenile sports on the lawn. There were gifts for the winners of races, and in marquees specially erected, the children were feasted with good things. The Governor in person, Capt. Arbuthnot-Leslie, his A.D.C., and Mr. Ponsonby, his Private Secretary, saw to it that the young guests were all cared for. Here is the list of acceptances:—

Masters Bernard and Nigel Atkinson, Misses Dana and Baby Basil-Taylor, Miss Nancy and Master Joey Badeley, Miss Marjorie Berkeley, Baby Barnes-Lawrence, Miss Kola Boyd, Master Guy and Vivian Bryan, Masters Bishe, and Borthwick, Miss Greta and Master Laddie Bunny, Master Toby and Baby Caulfield, Misses Cowan, Miss Kathleen and Master Lewis Craddock, Miss Kathleen Cocker, Master Claude Davis, Miss May and Master Jackie Droeze, Misses Erica, Marjorie and Muriel Denison, Misses Margaret and Baby Fitz-Williams, Miss Dorothy Fullerton, Miss Fuchs and Master Hubert Gedge, Misses Dorothy and Peggy Gordon, Masters Christopher, Humphrey, Geoffrey Gompertz, Miss Evelyn Grey, and Master Denis Grey, Misses Veda and Dora Grimble, Miss Gussie Hinds, Misses Alice, May and Dorothy Hoare, and Master Edward Hoare, Miss Vera, and Master Maurice Hurly, Misses Rachel, and Hope, and Master Archie Irving, Miss Anais, and Master Friedolf Kruger, Master M. Marty, Miss Jessie Mackenzie, and Master William and Archie Mackenzie, Misses Stella Phoebe, Iris and Dione May, Miss Celia Mowat, Miss Kathleen Moxon, Miss Celia Pemberton, Masters Billy and Frank Pinckney, Miss Nancy Playfair, Miss May Robinson, Miss Phyllis Seth, Miss Marjorie Sharp, Miss Elsie Schubart, Miss Wilhelmina Shuier, Miss Norah Swan, Baby Strickland, Miss Kathleen Taylor, Miss Romba Tomkins, Master Teddy Tilden, Master Derick Tulloch, Miss Lilly and Master Erich van der Hyde, Miss Celia Watson, Master Ramsey Walker, Misses Gwendie and Gladys Woodward.

THE PHILIPPINE GOLD STANDARD.

AFTER ONE YEAR'S WORKING.

The first new Philippine peso was placed in circulation July 23rd, 1903, so that the Islands have been undergoing a change of currency for practically one year. During that time over five million Mexican pesos have been shipped from the Islands commercially, and 8,788,000,000 pesos of Spanish-Filipino coin have been shipped to San Francisco by the Insular Treasurer for recoinage; on July 31st the Insular Treasurer had 1,695,000,000 pesos of old currency on hand awaiting shipment and which had been withdrawn from circulation. During the year the new Philippine currency in actual circulation has risen from nothing to nearly ten and one-half million pesos, aside from that held in the vaults of the Insular Treasury to the credit of disbursing officers or otherwise, also one-third of the amount held by the three Manila banks which are depositaries for funds of the Insular Government and the amounts held by the various provincial and municipal treasurers. The whole amount of new Philippine currency in the Islands on July 31st aggregated \$19,829,520.00. There is still a large amount of United States currency in circulation here. It may therefore be stated that the Islands are now upon a gold basis and that the great work of passing from a shifting and uncertain currency to one that is fixed and certain has been very largely accomplished. All this is a remarkable result to be gained within one year's time and makes it clear that the misfortunes that have come to the Islands through currency uncertainties are very soon to be no more elements operating against the prosperity of the Philippines.—*Manila Cable News*.

KOWLOON POINT.

Improvements at the extremity of the Kowloon Peninsula are being developed by the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd.; the "Star" Ferry Co., Ltd.; and the Hongkong Land Reclamation Co., Ltd.

The Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co. are at present building, or about to build a new two-story godown—150ft. by 75ft.—for hazardous goods, in their timber yard. There will be another, also for hazardous goods, in the coal yard on Marine Lot No. 9, near the Police Wharf. On the completion of the new 100 ft. road involving the demolition of Godown No. 25 and a part of Godown No. 26—the portions of Chater Road and Elgin Road, lying between the Company's godowns, will be utilised for rough storage—that is for the storage of timber, old iron, etc. That part of the waterfront, or Praya, lying between No. 1 Godown and the new ferry wharf will also be employed for such temporary bestowal of stuff that does not easily corrupt always, of course, keeping a thoroughfare clear in the centre for the transportation of goods to and from the respective godowns. Godowns No. 9, 21, 22 and 23, recently demolished by fire, are being rebuilt. New No. 9 will be a two-story affair, requiring new and more solid foundations while the other three will be single-story erections as before. A new carpenter's shop, engine shop, store, etc., a one-story building, will be built in the timber yard, at the back of the Elgin Road block of houses. Later on—next year, perhaps—Godowns Nos. 4 and 5 will be converted from one to two-story buildings. There is an ever-increasing demand for space; and property at Kowloon, especially near the Point, is rapidly increasing in value.

When the new "Star" Ferry Wharf is built at Kowloon the present one will be used by the Godown Co. as a landing place for launches. The "Star" Ferry Co. are at present receiving tenders for the construction of the new wharves on either side of the harbour. It is understood that Messrs. Long Cheong, Lim Tai and others have sent in estimates. All going well, work ought to commence in about a month's time. On the Hongkong side of the water, wing wharves, with a space between for the ferryboats—as described recently in the *Daily Press*—will be built on either side of the existing wharf, which, of course, will be replanked and repaired.

The Land Investment Co. have very nearly completed their new reclamation work immediately east of the Godown Co.'s premises. They are about to reclaim another piece of harbour to the east of Blackhead's Pier. The great idea regarding the reclaimed area is that it is to be the terminus of the long-hoped-for railway; and sheds and godowns will one day be built thereon for that purpose. Perhaps the Reclamation Co. may build a shed or two and sell them to the Godown Co. A new wharf may be built on that side of the Praya—that is, if the authorities allow it. Now that Hongkong is becoming more of a shipping (as distinct from transshipping) centre, more wharves will be necessary. Lighters are economical only for shifting cargo from one steamer to another.

MINING IN GERMAN NEW GUINEA.

Among the passengers on board the G. M. S. *Prinz Waldemar*, which arrived at Brisbane, recently, from Singapore, via German New Guinea, was Mr. H. Rodatz, who joined the vessel at Herbertshöhe. Mr. Rodatz went to German New Guinea about seven years ago, and was in charge of the German New Guinea expedition known as Ramu and afterwards of a second known as Hougolf. These two expeditions were sent out to search for gold. The members of the first-named party travelled inland about 150 miles, and found gold at various places but not in sufficient quantities. On the second occasion, the country surrounding what is known as the San Francisco River was prospected. This party proceeded along the river and up the ranges to a height of over 8,000ft., and it also prospected country near the Merkhams River, but gold was not found in payable quantities. The expedition, which was out for seven months, consisted of

eight white men and 100 black boys, and was organised by the German New Guinea Company. Although this company is not prospecting at the present time, it holds a licence from the German Government, which practically prohibits others from prospecting for gold. Many dangers and difficulties were encountered by members of the Hougolf expedition in the bush. If the party made three miles headway in a day in some places, it was considered very good progress. Attacks from natives were experienced many times, but fortunately no lives were lost. The navigation of the Merkham River was attended by great risk, as the stream was full of rapids, which forced the party on many occasions to make their way through the bush. Mr. Rodatz considered that there was gold to be found in pockets, but it was very difficult to get at it. Speaking on other matters, Mr. Rodatz said he afterwards settled down as a planter, and did pretty well, and he was now on his way to Europe. A large number of new German settlers and planters had arrived in German New Guinea within the last month or two, as well as a number of English and German capitalists, who intended going in for planting.

A FRESHET IN SOUTH CHINA.

A freshet. Never seen a freshet at close quarters? Well, let me describe one as we have them on the rivers in South China. All the rivers to the north of the great West River have a very rapid fall, but possibly none so great as the Cassia River. This is of the Cassia in spate.

Ask the steamer captains at Wuchow what they think of one of these freshets rushing down upon them as they lie at anchor a little below the junction of the Cassia River with the West River. I will not attempt to reproduce the reply. Steam has to be got up at once, and a safe anchorage to be found above the area affected by the mad rush of the waters.

But now, in imagination, come up the river to see the freshet in its formation. For a typical one two days' steady rain are needed, and then on the third all will be in full flow. At first the water will rise slowly, only gradually colouring the ordinarily transparent waters. But look around. Every mountain valley and depression has a silver streak winding down, a picture in the distance, a foaming torrent in reality. A thousand such are feeding the main stream. Watch the waters. The colour is now as the soil, and the surface is covered with the sweepings of the land. Look at the bank. Not inch by inch, but foot by foot, see the waters lap up and up. Is it twenty feet or is it thirty? Your memory fails to clearly recollect all that is now covered. But it has not finished yet. You therefore take careful note of the bank not yet submerged, so that if it should rise you will have some reliable data. You reckon that it is about twenty feet to the crest of the bank. But can it ever reach that?

Perhaps you now turn from contemplating the bank to look out on the stream again. As you watch your interest grows. The sweepings of the country have given place now to much more solid matter. It is now trees and not their leaves that you see. Here is a lot of timber, perhaps the remains of a raft. Here is what was once a flimsy house, and little row-boats are being swept down as they are trying to gather in the flotsam and jetsam that will serve their owners in the place of kindling for many a rainy day. These boats will return when the water has subsided, for though the place where you anchored was of course slack water it is now a torrent.

Now look at the bank again. What has happened? Where are all the marks you made a mental note of? Gone. But we can't have risen twenty feet while we were looking out on the flood? Well perhaps not, but you can at least see over the top of the bank, which only a few hours ago overtopped the mast. But now forget the raging stream behind you and watch the bank in front attentively. A wonderful sight will reward you. It is swarming with life of all descriptions. All creatures seem to have forgotten their natural enmities in the absorbing desire for self-preservation.

Here are five beetles on one blade of grass. The waters rise. There is no more room. One puts off to try to swim to an adjoining stalk, where there are only three. But his arrival is too much for the slender stalk, and all four are now in the water vainly trying to reach some terra firma. And so the waters rise, and the more crowded become all the available refuges. Here are creatures driven from their holes, unaccustomed to the light, but what can they do? And so the value of the collection increases from a collector's point of view. Enough to the square yard for a whole case! It is the story of the Deluge acted in miniature.

Besides the smaller life there are the snakes, long green ones and browns of all sizes. How they swim and battle with the current. A refuge at last! It's a boat. And so on comes an unwelcome visitor in spite of boat-hooks, poles and forks wielded by a frightened crew. Thrown off they will try again and again, and in spite of all precautions some will get on board, of course only to meet a different fate to that from which they have been fleeing.

But now the crest of the bank is submerged, and the whole of the struggling creatures are swept off in the relentless waters. The water is now spreading over the country. But what now? Has it suddenly become so hot that it is boiling? No. But the effect to the eye is the same. The water is boiling, but not with steam bubbles. It is the air that was in the ground escaping as the water soaks into the land. But what a roar it makes, as the thousands upon thousands burst, liberating the imprisoned air. Here are vegetables being uprooted and blown up by uprushing air. As the water deepens the boiling points will become fewer and fewer. But as they decrease in numbers they become more violent, until the land is studded with geysers, blowing up water two and three feet high. After some hours these will gradually subside, the ground being saturated.

The onlooker will now probably have had enough too, and will retire for the night. Next morning he will awake to find that he has sunk possibly ten feet or more. And by the following day he will be wondering whether after all the waters did not rise fifty feet, and they have not even then fully subsided.

And then you go on. The river glistens and sparkles, and all nature rejoices, apparently forgetful that there ever was such a disturbing thing as a freshet.

THE ANTI-CATHOLIC TROUBLE IN HUPEH.

A Hupeh despatch of 12th August says:—Many reports from prefects and magistrates are received here, but outsiders have many rumours. Some say the trouble at Enshih was caused by a quarrel between Catholics and Protestants, while the others say that certain prefects caused the trouble. The only thing known here is that three priests and seven converts were killed (the number of converts killed was reported as six, but this is wrong). All the anti-Catholic troubles have been negotiated through the French Consul-General at Shanghai, hitherto, but in this matter the French Consul at Hankow has taken it up to deal with as he was asked to do so by the Catholics. The French Consul is now in negotiations with Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, and he also asked the Viceroy to instruct the local authorities to settle the affair speedily. Four or five days after the trouble had happened a French warship came up from Shanghai and went up to Ichang as the French Consul at Hankow asked the French Consul-General at Shanghai to send one. When the report of the trouble reached Wuchang, Sub-prefect Feng had been ordered to proceed to the spot to investigate the matter. The sub-prefect intended to order Magistrate Hsu to make a preliminary trial, but as Magistrate Hsu's experience was not enough Magistrate Yu was appointed in his stead. The Prefect of Shihnan, knowing trouble was expected, took leave and returned to his native home on the pretence of illness. Sub-prefect Ho took charge of the Prefect's duties. And on the 11th July the trouble had arisen. Some say Sub-prefect Ho was foolish enough to take charge of the prefecture; however, there is talk about the conduct of the

Prefect of Shihnan having tried to avoid the expected trouble with the pretence of illness, and the prefect will properly be dealt with. This is the reason why the prefect is suspected of being concerned in the trouble. The Viceroy will certainly deal with the prefect properly. However, Sub-prefect Ho is considered to be too foolish not to have known what was expected to happen while he allowed the prefect to have leave of absence and while he was working all the time with the prefect before the trouble had happened.—*Universal Gazette*.

FUTURE OF COREA.

In Europe there are many countries, just as weak in comparison with their neighbours as Korea is, who preserve their independence by virtue of their positions as buffer states. Any attempt at encroachment by a neighbour on the West would be immediately resented by the neighbour on the East. This is the position which Korea is in, and which she can, by wise government, maintain.

So we say to Korea, Awake! Reforms coming from within are infinitely preferable to those forced on a country from without. There is yet time, but none too much; Korea must not lose a moment in commencing to set her country in order. Money is the root of all evil, and once the finances and financial administration of this country were firmly established on a basis of probity and wisdom the regeneration of Korea would be in sight.

Uncertainty, as to the taxation, is fatal to all enterprise. Once the people knew that the land was theirs so long as they continued to pay a certain fixed tax, and that nothing more would be demanded of them, improvements would commence in all directions. Any capital invested would be secure, and land, which has been lying fallow for lack of drainage and irrigation, would soon be made productive. Mines would be exploited and all commercial enterprise would receive a great stimulus.

All these improvements depend upon one thing—an incorrupt financial administration.—*Korea Daily News*.

"INTELLIGENT ANTICIPATION" IN JAPAN.

Some of the Japanese newspapers are determined to be in time in announcing the news of the fall of Port Arthur, which they seem to regard as imminent. It appears that quite a number of journals have "extras" announcing the great event already printed, so that no time shall be lost when the news arrives. In consequence two or three amusing incidents have occurred. A local vernacular journal which had taken this method of being first in the field sent to an agent at Suma copies of the "extra" all ready for distribution as soon as a telephone message was sent. Unhappily the agent misunderstood his instructions and began to deliver the "extra" as soon as it arrived, which was on Sunday last. He discovered his mistake before he had completed distribution, and then went round to the subscribers and asked for the return of the premature announcement in order that it could be born again when the proper time came. A similar mishap occurred in Tokyo, where a newspaper had its agents supplied with an "extra" printed in red for distribution as soon as the news was received, and of course with the result that one agent, not understanding his instructions properly, distributed at once, many villas in the neighbourhood of Tokyo being beflagged and decorated in consequence. The result of all these preparations will be that when the news actually does arrive it will be received with some doubt until the publication of the official report sets the matter at rest.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

The report of Mr. J. C. Shengle, official assignee in bankruptcy of the estate of Mr. Barney Weill, as presented at the U. S. Consulate at Shanghai on the 12th instant, showed the net amount available for distribution to be \$3,500.38. Preference claims amounted to \$854.54, and the unpreferential claims to \$12,906.54. This allowed a final dividend of 20.5 per cent. The report and arrangement were sanctioned.

REVIEWS.

Technical Terms, English and Chinese. Shanghai: Presbyterian Mission Press.

THE terms have been prepared by the Committee of the Educational Association of China (the Revs. C. W. Mateer, A. P. Parker, and W. M. Harris). The Editor briefly alluding in the preface to the question as to whether, in general, technical terms should be translated or transferred, holds the view that in case a brief and expressive term can be found, it is the best, and generally preferred by Chinese scholars; but rather than use a long or an awkward term, or one that does not strike the essential idea in the case, it is better to transfer the sound of the term used in the west, as this method is popular with commercial men. The list contains a considerable number of terms of this kind, though they are but few in the aggregate. The labour involved in the preparation of this list must have been very great indeed, but the result is a volume which will prove extremely useful alike to Chinese and European students, and especially to teachers of western science and other studies to Chinese pupils.

A Guide to the City of and Suburbs of Canton.

By Dr. KERR. Publishers: Kelly and Walsh. THIS useful little guide has been re-written and brought up to date. No visitor who wishes to see Canton can afford to be without this little handbook of information. So far as concerns the City, the Guide enumerates the principal streets and mentions what they are chiefly noted for. In this street one sees in the shops the finest specimens of jade-stone jewellery and ornaments; in that the visitors will see the ivory carvers at work; in the other the bronze workers; the gold-beaters, the silk and damask weavers and so forth. With Captain Lloyd's "Book for the Globetrotter" and Dr. Kerr's *Guide to Canton* the tripper may make the visit to Canton one of great and enduring interest. It requires about a week to "do" the city and suburbs thoroughly, and Dr. Kerr gives at the end of his book lists of the chief places to be seen. There is an outline of a tour which will enable the visitor to skim the City in a day; and other tours are mapped out suitable for a stay of two or three days or a week.

"CHINA TRADE" ITEMS.

Messrs. Benjamin Kelly and Potts are informed by telegram that the Astor House Hotel Company, Limited (Shanghai), has declared a dividend of 10 per cent. (\$2½ per share) for the year ended 30th June, 1904.

The Standard Oil Company, who have recently opened their own agency at Tientsin, have been busy raising land with the object of having a wharf between the I.C.R. and the Lu-Han railway wharves, where steamers will be able to discharge cargo.

A Tokyo despatch values the damage suffered by Japanese companies through the Vladivostok squadron up to the present at 15,000,000 yen. The foreign steamers now chartered aggregate 200,000 tons, and when these are idle the loss incurred by the charterers must be very great.

From the small quantity of fuel consumed by all the silk and cotton mills in Japan in the first half of this year it would appear that the spinning industry has been greatly injured by the war. The following is a comparative table of coal consumed by the spinners from January to June of this and the two preceding years: 1902, 449,437,670 lbs.; 1903, 436,807,890 lbs.; 1904, 364,874,019 lbs.

Experiments made in camphor growing in Ceylon appear to be turning out well. We know, says the *Ceylon Observer*, of several estates on which there are flourishing camphor clearings—one 12 acres in extent—and we have seen camphor trees in Ceylon 30 feet high. Little is known of the manner of distilling and preparing the raw camphor for the market, and growers can only obtain their information by experiments and at some expense; so that they are naturally reticent on the subject. The present writer has handled Ceylon-produced camphor valued by a home firm of experts at 116 shillings per cwt. No doubt before long the first shipments of this new product will be made from Ceylon.

The many friends of Mr. F. M. Tegner, of Messrs. Vivanti Bros., No. 168-b, Yamashita-cho, Yokohama, will be interested to learn that the King of Denmark has been graciously pleased to confer upon him the order of "Ritter of Danebrog"—that is to say, Knight of the Danebrog. News of the bestowal of this honour only reached Yokohama on the evening of August 3rd, but Mr. Tegner has already received hearty congratulations from many quarters on the well-merited decoration.—*Japan Mail*.

The Asahi Beer Company at Osaka unanimously adopted the following accounts for the first half of this year:

	Yen.
Net profits	60,322.76
Brought from last account	1,316.40
Total	61,639.16
To income tax	2,848.55
To legal reserve	5,000.00
To reserve for making good losses	3,381.85
To dividend (10 per cent. per annum)	50,000.00
Carried over to next account	408.76

An American trade review states that eight hundred motor equipments have been ordered from the General Electric Company, of New York City, U.S.A., for use on the cars of the Tokyo Street Railway Company's electric traction system (the new high level?). The power station, which will be the largest electric generating plant in the Far East, will have a capacity of not less than 7,000 kilowatts. The equipment will comprise four Curtis turbines of 1,500 kilowatts capacity each, and two of 500 kilowatts each.

Intelligence was received by wire on the 13th inst. by Messrs. Butterfield & Swire of the death, in London, on the 11th inst., of Mr. Edwin Mackintosh, partner in that firm. Mr. Mackintosh was well known both here and in Shanghai, having been a resident partner of the firm for many years in the Far East. Mr. Mackintosh came to Hongkong in 1880, and remained until 1895. He was an active member of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, of which he was Chairman during 1890, 1891, and 1892 and was Vice-Chairman in 1894. Mr. Mackintosh was much respected for his business capacity, and under his direction the Taikoo Refining Co. was started, and the shipping interests of the firm greatly extended.

The possession of Samoa does not seem to afford that amount of satisfaction which Germans in general had expected to derive from it. The small landed proprietors finding that residence in the islands is becoming more and more unprofitable, are beginning to sell their property and emigrate to America. The heavy cost of freight, coupled with the 10 per cent. import duty, is a very serious matter to the smaller business people. On the other hand, the German Colonial Society is endeavouring to induce Count von Bülow to take steps towards obtaining from England and America the sum of m.500,000 awarded by the King of Sweden and Norway as compensation for the damage done to Apia and to the property of German colonists there by English and American guns in March, 1899. It is said that some of the poorer colonists have almost been ruined by the non-payment of the amount awarded.—*Nagasaki Press*.

The Waiwupu has concluded an agreement with Sir John Lister Kaye representing the Lang-hua Company, regarding the working of mines in Tung-lin district in Anhui. The original draft made in 1902 gave the company the right to work mines in six districts in that province, but the company has now relinquished five of the places and will only work mines at Tun-kuan Shan. The agreement provides that the mine will be worked under the name of the An-yu Company with Sir John Lister Kaye as chief agent. After the sanctioning of the agreement by the Imperial Government the Board will communicate with Sir John Lister Kaye, who will then have the right to despatch engineers to explore and work the mines. Six thousand pounds has already been spent by the company in exploring the mine, but a similar amount will now be raised for working expenses. The capital will be limited to one million sterling or Tls. 7,000,000. One English and one Chinese manager will be appointed, the former to have charge of the works and finance and the latter to be in charge of affairs of intercourse with Chinese authorities.

The Director of the Bureau of Commerce at Chengtu has been ordered by H. E. Viceroy Hsi-Liang to purchase 10,000 mulberries from Che-kiang to plant in the districts which are suitable for the purpose so that silkworms may be reared on foreign methods with the view of promoting the silk enterprise in the province of Szechuen. Silk and cocoons are still the greatest exports in Chinese commerce, although one half of the trade has been taken by foreign merchants. The magistrates of the various districts have been commanded to exert their influence to persuade people to plant mulberries, and they will either be rewarded or punished according to their merits or demerits. In addition His Excellency is going to engage some experienced Japanese silk workers of both sexes to act as instructors to Chinese silkworm rearers at Chengtu and other districts.

It is proposed to convert the business of the well-known Hotel Metropole at Shanghai into a limited liability company with a capital of \$200,000 Mexican, divided into 2,000 shares of \$100 each. It is stated that the reason which has induced Mr. Biddle, the proprietor, to sell his business to a company, and offer a part of the share capital to the public for subscription, is that he requires funds in order to improve the appearance and structure of the Hotel, and he is confident that if this can be done, the hotel will soon become one of the leading, and on account of its position, most attractive hotels in Shanghai, and its earning power will consequently be greatly increased. Mr. Biddle has agreed to manage the business for five years. A dividend of 13 per cent. is anticipated. We understand that the stock is being largely taken up by the French community. The hotel has catered mostly for Americans.

Some big harbour improvements are about to be made at Singapore, plans and estimates for the work having arrived from England, and being under consideration by the Government. At the same time the plans for the extension of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company's wharves have also been submitted, and are in the hands of the directors. Both schemes are immense engineering undertakings, which, when completed, will place Singapore at the head of the list with harbour facilities in the Far East. The Tanjong Pagar works provide for the transformation of the present wooden wharves into permanent structures of steel and concrete, reaching from the town end of the docks to the end of the Borneo wharf. Modern warehouses, coal handling and freight handling appliances, will be installed for the rapid dispatch of the deep-water vessels. A new wet dock 3,000 feet long will also be constructed so as to be capable of another 3,000 feet extension whenever necessary. The improvements also include the construction of an immense dry dock 800 feet long.

It was not so many years back since the merchants engaged in the river trade, the representatives of the river steamboat companies and the British officials in Canton and in Peking, were engaged as one man in a strenuous endeavour to combat the practice on the part of the "Hoppos" in Canton, then in vogue, of favouring shippers of goods in Chinese bottoms to the detriment of British steamers. The practice of the Canton native customs officials was often represented, says the *P. & T. Times*, as a gross injustice to foreign shipowners and a distinct violation of the most-favoured nation clause of the treaty. Amongst the many remedies then thought to effectually remove the injustice complained of was, that the post of the "hoppo" or native customs superintendent of Canton should be abolished and the duties appertaining to that office merged in the commissionership of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs. Diplomatic representations through a succession of years resulted in failure. Her Imperial Majesty, however, is now determined that decided steps should be taken in this direction, and therefore commands, by decree of the 10th inst., the abolition of the posts of the "Hoppos" or Customs Superintendent of Canton, and that of Superintendent of Customs of Hunan in Kiangsu province, the duties of "Hoppos" in Canton to be undertaken by the Viceroy of the Two Kwang provinces. Also, as the Commissionerships of the Imperial silklooms of Kiangning and Soochow are both in the one province of Kiangsu, the first-named Commissionership is abolished.

The Governor of Kiangsu memorialises concerning the re-establishment of the Soo-tsin and Soo-lun Government silk filatures at Soochow which were opened by Viceroy Chang Chih-tung in 1895, when that port was first thrown open to commerce. The capital was Tls. 800,000, 500,000 being taken from the Provincial Treasuries at Soochow and Nanking and the remainder subscribed from Chinese merchants at Shanghai. But owing to the slackness of trade the filatures were leased to a wealthy Chinese merchant in 1900, who lost more than Tls. 300,000, which have now been made up by him by pressure from the memorialist. These filatures are now leased to Mr. Fei Cheung-ying, who agreed to pay Tls. 50,000 as rent per annum, besides if possible the payment of the necessary interest and bonus. The filatures were re-opened on the 1st June this year.—*Peking Gazette*.

Tea experts from India as well as Ceylon have recently been visiting Formosa as delegates of Tea Planters' Associations, to whom the results of enquiries into the production of Formosa Oolongs are being reported. The reports to the Indian Association are not being published yet, but we notice that the Ceylon expert (Mr. Kingsford) says in one of his reports:—A very large proportion of the teas shipped are of poor quality, the very high priced teas are due to fine plucking, the most flavoury teas to weak unpruned bushes with a very unhealthy and half-dead appearance. We have a good many photographs we took of tea in all conditions and districts. It is quite clear that there is no added flavouring matter. Appearances and pungency seem to sell better than mere flavour. The plucking is either very coarse with a heavy proportion of two and three-leaved bany, or very fine, but the latter teas have more appearance and not much flavour. The teas appear to be almost as fully fired as the average Ceylons, when they leave the country garden packed in bags, but they lose a further 10 per cent. of moisture in the hug firing which, of course, increases the cup colour of a sample, but does not appear to improve the flavour. Values appear to vary considerably from year to year. 1902, on value of invoices exported, 8d; last year 7d.

The Far East has always been an Eldorado of the peculating Russian official and the dishonest contractor, and the story that Dalny was, if possible, to be destroyed by the Russians, in order that no unsympathetic contrast should be made between the real value of the buildings and the sums paid for their erection, is quite a likely one. Foreigners from Port Arthur and Dalny are full of stories illustrating Russian "squeezes." Russians accept the fact with that calm pessimism which is one of the Oriental traits of the nation. Here is a typical case. A contractor, an honest man in his way, was engaged to make some hundreds of waggons for the Russian Government. The first fifty were completed, and the contractor took them to the commissariat yard. The official whose duty, it was to receive the waggons looked at them and then walked down the line, putting a number from one to fifty on each. He then asked the contractor to lunch with him, entertained him nobly, and, after the meal, suggested that they should go and look at the other fifty waggons. The contractor declared that he had no more ready to deliver, but the official told him that he was mistaken. They went together to the yard and walked down the other side of the line of waggons, the official marking them from fifty to a hundred. The official then suggested that the price of the second fifty waggons should be divided between the contractor and himself. To the query: "Did the contractor accept?" an astonished "Of course!" was the answer.

The death of Mr. Charles Walter Sneyd Kynnersley, C.M.G., a retired official of the Straits Settlements Civil Service, has already been reported by cable. By the mail we learn that Mr. Kynnersley died in bed suddenly. He, who had seen thirty-two years' service, returned to England only in May, and was staying with a friend in Wimbledon. The cause of death was valvular disease of the heart and angina pectoris. An inquest was held and a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.

HONGKONG.

It is worthy of note, and very creditable to the police, that there have been no robberies at Kowloon for over a month.

H.K.V. Corporal J. H. Varcoe and Gunner F. W. White have been permitted to resign. Corporal H. Gidley has been granted leave of absence for 4 months from 10th instant.

In Kobe, a provisional attachment was effected on the property of Mrs. Euphemie Tonnochy. The case arose out of a promissory note signed by Frank Tonnochy, formerly of Hongkong.

There were 583 deaths in June from disease or other causes, the annual rate being therefrom computed at 21.6 per thousand (white civilians) or 21.3 including Chinese (Army and Navy excluded.)

The Committee of the Hongkong Cricket Club has been fortunate in getting Mr. A. R. Lowe to succeed Mr. Ward in the office of Secretary to the Club on the latter's retirement at the end of the next month.

Mr. Falloon has beaten Mr. Kemp in one game towards the final of the Chess Championship of the Colony. Another game has been commenced, but was adjourned. Five games, in all, will be played.

Mr. A. Seth having been appointed Registrar, the post of Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court is to be taken by Mr. J. H. Kemp, who is presently sitting as Second Magistrate at the Police Court.

There are at present 16 European vagrants in the House of Detention, a record number. They are mostly stranded sailors, who loaf round town pretending to look for work. They get two square meals at "home"—one shortly after six in the morning, and another at 4.15 p.m.

The weekly plague return shows a gratifying decrease, due to three days clear of plague. The number of cases was five, all fatal. This brings the number for the year so far to 488, of which 473 were fatal. There were no cases of other communicable disease last week, and the plague return for the forty-eight hours ending noon on the 15th inst. was nil.

Mr. Sorabjee Dhunjeebhoj Setna, a member of the Parsee community of Hongkong, has just received from the R.A.O.B. Grand Lodge of England (by cable) the "second degree." Mr. Setna is the first Parsee to join the Order, and the local "King Edward VII" Lodge is rather proud of him. There was a dinner at the Hotel America last night to celebrate the occasion.

Mr. G. P. Souza writes us, calling attention to the confinement in small cages of the puppies at the bird-shops. He considers it a case for the S.P.C.A. We have been to see the two shops he mentions, and do not consider there is sufficient to call for interference. Mr. Souza expresses a desire for some report of work done by the Society. So far as we remember, the Society's annual report is not yet overdue.

Mok Ching Chuen, the Lyndhurst Terrace "truth speaker," who was convicted for playing on the superstitions of a foolish woman—obtaining money by false pretences—begged not to be put in stocks in a long coat. It would be an insult to the gentry of China. "What have you got to do with 'gentry' anyhow?" asked an officer. The man was allowed to divest himself of the garment, however.

The *Kobe Chronicle* has done good work in persuading the Japanese to eliminate unæsthetic advertisements from their landscapes. It very neatly advocates the discouragement of a similar blemish from the Hill at Kobe, by suggesting that visitors seeing it would deny to the Japanese the possession of the artistic taste with which they are at present rightly credited. Imagine our Peak at Hongkong disfigured with huge advertisements.

Mr. Harold Clarke, junior partner in the engineering firm of Messrs. Carmichael and Clarke, after lying ill in the Civil Hospital for nearly a week with typhoid, following an attack of pneumonia, died on the 18th inst. aged 32 years. Mr. Clark was a Liverpool man, formerly employed on the steamers *Knight Companion* and *San Cheung*. He was married here, and began business, about eighteen months ago. He was a popular member of the community, and his untimely demise is regretted by numerous friends.

In the Summary Court recently a Chinese washerman sued Mrs. Webb, of "Killadoon," for a few dollars due for washing. Mrs. Webb's defence was that she did not know to whom to pay the money, as on previous occasions she had paid such accounts and because she paid them to the wrong man had had to pay them twice over. Mr. Justice Sercombe Smith in giving judgment for the plaintiff said he himself had been compelled to pay accounts two times over, and he advised Mrs. Webb to see that in future her receipts bore the firm's chop as well as the signature of the man who collected the account.

Some of the residents in Leighton Hill Road are complaining of the state of the open drain there behind the residences. The sanitary authorities have been asked to get the nuisance removed, but they appear to be powerless in the matter so far as present results show.

Government notification No. 529, having reference to the regulation of sampan traffic, is on the whole a satisfactory document. Regulation 13, which mentions the cleanliness of the craft, has never been thoroughly efficacious. Perhaps it is not easy to enforce, in cases where the family uses the sampan as a domicile. No. 17 forbids any sampan man to refuse a passenger "anywhere between the north point of Hongkong and Hung Hom point on the east; Belcher's Bay and West Point of Stonecutters' Island on the west; Shamshuipo and West Point of Stonecutters' Island on the North." This seems to exclude the man-o-war anchorage. May sampan men refuse to convey passengers thither? If so, there will be times when the shore will resound with sailorish remarks. No. 20 is a valuable addition to the regulations, its omission in the past having permitted a lot of annoyance.

A trivial case (that is how *The Union* puts it) occupied the time of two Judges in the Supreme Court of Hongkong recently. It appears a coolie carrying a bamboo obstructed the sidewalk to the detriment of one Wai Chung, who preferred an information against him. The Magistrate dismissed the information, whereupon the complainant took the case to the Supreme Court. For him was the Attorney-General, instructed by the Crown Solicitor; on the opposite side was another lawyer. Judgment was deferred. We do things differently in Shanghai; if a native carries a bamboo or bundle on the sidewalks he is told by the Police to get into the road and that ends it. [The difference lies in the fact that the Hongkong coolie is a British subject, with all the heritage of liberty a Briton enjoys. The Shanghai coolie is an outlaw, with no one—not even a temperance journal—to say a good word for him.]

MISCELLANEOUS.

General Baron Yamaguchi, who commanded the Japanese forces at Tientsin in the Boxer troubles, died on the 7th instant. He was promoted to the rank of Viscount on the 6th.

Mr. Segawa, the Japanese Consul at Newchwang, who withdrew from his post at the outbreak of the war, is returning to Newchwang, and left Kobe by the steamer *Argo*.

Many of our Shanghai neighbours are being pleased by Sunday trips by water to Woosung. An hour's breathing of the cool sea breezes each way, a suitable hotel at the far end, and the opportunity of seeing the shipping, have made these excursions popular.

Mr. Alfred Stead is vastly more amusing than his famous father. After writing a book with a title that was not "Five Minutes in Japan," and numerous articles couched in an authoritative tone that even Professor Chamberlain never assumed, Mr. Alfred Stead had a new idea, to persuade prominent Japanese to write on Japanese topics in which they were particularly interested. The result of this sensible idea is probably a useful book, but Mr. Stead's manner as "compiler and editor" of advertising it (and himself) will not help to sell the book. When he says "nobody can be more aware of its omissions and its faults than myself," he reminds us of that illiterate maid-servant for whom a good-natured mistress was writing a letter. At the end of the message, the lady asked: "Anything more, Bridget?" "Yiss, mum. Ye might put in 'please excuse bad writing and spelling.'"

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons in their Silk Circular, dated Shanghai, 6th August, state:—The home markets are quiet. Gold Kiling is quoted in London at 12/- and in Lyons at Fcs. 34. Raw Silk.—Business has been on a small scale during the week and telegrams from the Silk districts quote lower prices. Coarse Silks are in good demand. Yellow Silks—Continue in good demand at advancing prices. Mienchews are also in strong demand. Hand Filatures.—Nothing doing. Steam Filatures.—Only small sales are reported of old cargo, and amongst Chinese there have been some speculative purchases. In new Season Silk we understand that some Filatures have small contracts, but details are difficult to obtain. Waste Silk.—The home markets continue depressed, but a fair volume of business is reported. We quote following sales:—

400 Pels. Showhing Pierced Cocoons	
76/77 per cent. at	Tls. 107½
50 " Fil Long Waste at	130 nett
70 " Kading Frisonets 70,20,10 at	36/37
100 " Curles I at	90

Arrivals from the interior are good. We estimate Stock of Curles 1,2,3 at Pels. 3,000 and Frisonets (all kinds) at 6,000 Pels.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 19th August.—The prices are the same as when last reported.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.50 to \$8.55 pels.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.50 to 7.55 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.95 to 6.00 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.80 to 5.85 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.40 to 8.45 "
Do. " 2, White.....	7.40 to 7.45 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.75 to 5.80 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.65 to 5.70 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.70 to 12.75 "
Shekloong ".....	10.70 to 10.75 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 19th August.—No demands having come forward, the prices are declining.

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.35 to \$2.40
" Round, good quality.....	3.65 to 3.70
" Long.....	3.85 to 3.90
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2.....	2.65 to 2.70
" Garden, " No. 1.....	3.60 to 3.65
" White, ".....	4.10 to 4.15
" Fine Cargo.....	4.25 to 4.30

OPIUM.

19th August.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty	
Malwa New.....	\$1080 to \$1100 per picul.
Malwa Old.....	\$1150 to \$1180 do.
Malwa Older.....	\$1250 to \$1280 do.
Malwa V. Old.....	\$1300 to \$1330 do.
Persian fine quality.....	\$800 to — do.
Persian extra fine.....	\$900 to — do.
Patna New.....	\$1175 to — per chest.
Patna Old.....	\$ — to — do.
Benares New.....	\$1142½ to — do.
Benares Old.....	\$1170 to — do.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 12th August.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, ...	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32, ...	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42, ...	155.00 to 170.00

Reported sales 6,000 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.30
7 lbs.	2.35 to 2.50
8.4 lbs.	3.20 to 4.10
9 to 10 lbs.	4.10 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.90 to 3.10
58 to 60 "	3.20 to 3.75
64 to 66 "	4.00 to 5.50
Fine.....	6.20 to 8.25
Book-folds.....	5.50 to 8.20
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.80 to 1.10
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.....	2.25 to 2.50
7lbs. (32 "), ".....	2.75 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.....	2.25 to 2.75
7lbs. (32 "), ".....	3.00 to 3.25
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.).....	3.20 to 4.00
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ " to 14 lbs.)	5.25 to 8.00

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs. }	1.80 to 3.90
Brocades—Dyed.....	0.13 to 0.14

DAMASKS—

Chintzes—Assorted.....	per yard 0.09 to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.23 to 0.45
Velveteens—18 in.	0.21 to 0.27
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk.....	per dozen 9.45 to 0.75

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	per yard 0.70 to 2.50
German.....	0.60 to 0.75
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.....	1.00 to 3.50
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	7.80 to 9.50
Assorted.....	7.95 to 9.65
Camlets—Assorted.....	12.50 to 33.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches.....	13.00 to 22.00
Assorted.....	13.00 to 22.00
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	10.00 to —
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	per pair 0.60 to 0.82
Fine quality.....	— to —

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod.....	per picul 4.05 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.).....	4.05 to —
Swedish Bar.....	4.10 to —
Small Round Rod.....	4.50 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	6.10 to —
Wire, 16 25 oz.	9.50 to —
Wire Rope, Old.....	3.00 to —
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop.....	8.20 to —
Australian.....	8.20 to —
Yellow M' tal—Muntz 14 20 oz.	39.00 to —
Vivian's 14 20 oz.	39.00 to —
Elliot's 14 20 oz.	39.00 to —
Composition Nails.....	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	38.50 to —
Tin.....	79.00 to —

Shanghai, 11th August.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, state: The news of the actual fall of Port Arthur is still awaited with eager interest, though there is no denying that the tendency in trade circles here is to treat it as already an accomplished fact. There is some uneasiness amongst importers who have shipments on the way as to what their position would be if the steamers were intercepted by the Russians; which might easily happen as long as the Vladivostok fleet is allowed to cruise about, and that is a strong reason why the release of the greater part of the Japanese Port Arthur Squadron would be welcomed, as after what has recently befallen the shipping of neutrals it is impossible to feel secure. In spite of the relaxation in the restrictions on shipments to Newchwang only two small steamers have cleared for that Port direct and consequently shipments have been comparatively light. One of the most interesting features of the week has been a decided revival in the enquiry for goods for Corea shipment within a month or two from Manchester, and also for next Spring. Business generally has undoubtedly been much slacker both from stock and for arrival. The available supply here of staple goods is rapidly diminishing and cannot be replenished to any appreciable extent for the next two or three months, and meanwhile clearances are improving. The dealers fully expect a decided advance in prices and a brisk demand for hard cargo during the next four weeks. So far the Auction results do not look as though their anticipations would be realised. For next year's delivery, however, a good enquiry has continued, and the dealers have been found willing enough to book even so far ahead as April shipment. In this Manchester manufacturers have been more easy to deal with than they are in America, where a lower range of Cotton prices later on in the season is not looked upon as at all a certainty. Towards the close some Native operators have thought it advisable to settle part of their exchange against forward purchases, which has rather depressed sterling rates. The market is steady in Manchester, the leading makers of China Cloths being engaged well ahead. The spot quotation for Mid American Cotton has fallen to 6.08d. but we have not heard of any reliable quotations for "futures." Egyptian is up to 7½d. The market in New York seems to be strong and excited. A steady demand has continued for this market and quite an extensive business must have been transacted one way and another, but it is extremely difficult to gather any details. It is noticeable the buying is now done in more retail quantities than it was in former years. The Yarn market is still active at steady to firm prices for the imported article, and this morning it is rumoured a large deal in local spinnings has taken place. The prospects for the Cotton crop continue favourable, but at the same time forward contracts for the new staple, mostly for export, are being made at pretty full rates.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Simla*, sailed on 13th Aug. For Antwerp or Hamburg:—25 cases bristles. For London or Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Lyons:—127 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond:—30 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—145 bales raw silk, 150 bales waste silk, 10 cases human hair. For London:—95 bales raw silk, 9 cases silks, 6 cases cigars, 289 bales tea from Amoy, 22 bales tea from Foochow, 3 cases bird feathers, 6 cases iron flasks, 1 case blackwoodware, 1 case curios, 1 case carpets, 2 cases wearing apparel. For Milan:—10 bales raw silk.

Per P. & O. steamer *Borneo*, sailed 19th Aug. For London:—500 bales hemp, 4,510 boxes tea, 2,170 cases preserves, 75 cases preserves, 4 cases cigars, 50 cases chinaware, 20 cases bristles, 25 rolls matting, 2 cases enamelware, 2 cases woodware, 5 cases lids, 1 case silk piece goods, 7 cases private effects. For Hamburg:—50 bales narci sus bulbs. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Glasgow:—15 cases woodware. For London or Manchester:—150 bales waste silk. For London or Hamburg or Havre:—75 bales feathers.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 19th August, 1904.—Demand has ruled active throughout the past week, and important advances have been established in most of our leading stocks.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai continue firm with small sales and further buyers at \$665. The London rate is £68. Nationals are unchanged at \$38 buyers.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions, after sales at \$540, close firmer with buyers at \$542½. Cantons have improved to \$210 with sales and further buyers. China Traders are weak at \$63. North Chinas and Yangtzes are without change.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong's continue strong at \$310 buyers. Chinas have sold and are in further request at \$82.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are weak at \$28 ex the half-yearly dividend of \$1½ per share paid on the 17th instant, but there are buyers of small lots at \$7½. Indo-Chinas have sold at varying rates between \$112 and \$116 cash, and at \$118 and \$119 for December delivery, closing firm with cash buyers at \$115. China and Manilas can still be placed at \$26; and Star Ferries at \$33 and \$23 for the old and new issues respectively. Douglasses are quiet with small sales and probable sellers at \$35. Shell Transports are firmer with buyers at 24/-.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars after dropping to \$181 have rapidly improved to \$188 with sales at intervening rates, market closing strong. Luzons are still neglected at \$9 sellers.

MINING.—The Punjom Mining Company, Limited, being now in liquidation is eliminated from our list. Raabs have sold and are in request at the reduced rate of \$6½.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have continued in strong favour, and sales at from \$225 to \$235 cash and for settlement delivery have been booked, market closing with further buyers at \$235. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves, after sales at \$117, have receded to \$116 sellers. New Amoy Docks continue out of favour at \$27½. Faruham's, after dropping to Tls. 170, are somewhat firmer with sales at Tls. 171½ and Tls. 172½, closing in further request locally at the latter rate.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have sold at \$153, and more shares are procurable. Kowloon Lands continue in request at \$38. West Points after sales at \$61 and \$62 are easier with sellers at \$61. Hongkong Hotels have sold at \$136½ down to \$133½, but close somewhat firmer with buyers at \$134. Humphreys Estates have improved to \$13 at which there are further sellers. Shanghai Lands are quoted Tls. 112.

COTTON MILLS.—Without business; quotations unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have sold and are in further request at \$29½. China Borneos have been placed at \$10½, and Watsons at \$15. Eleotrics (old) have improved to \$15½; the new shares can still be placed at \$9½. Ices are stronger with buyers at \$247½. Steam Waterboats have been booked at \$19, and China Providents at \$9½. Powell's have improved to \$12 buyers and Watkins to \$9 buyers. Steam Laundries are on offer at \$7.

MEMOS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation half-yearly meeting to-morrow.

the 20th instant. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Ltd., half-yearly meeting on 22nd instant. Hongkong Hotel Company, Ltd., half-yearly meeting on the 27th instant; transfer books close from the 21st to the 27th instant, both days inclusive. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., extraordinary general meeting on the 31st instant, at the offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Company, to consider a resolution for increasing the capital of the company from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000.

Closing quotations are as follows:

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$865, sales
Natl. Bank of China		London, £68.
A. Shares	£8	\$38, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$38, buyers
Four. Shares	£1	\$10, buyers
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$542, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$63
North China	£5	Tls. 67½
Yangtze	\$60	\$130
Canton	\$50	\$210, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$310, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$88, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$28, ex div.
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$115, sellers
China and Manila	\$50	\$26, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$35, sales
Star Ferry	\$10	\$38, buyers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	\$24, buyers
Do. pref. shares	£10	£28. 10s.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$185, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$9, sellers
Mining—		
Punjom	\$11	\$490
Do. Preference	\$1	40 cts., sellers
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubs	18 10d.	\$64, buyers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$235, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$116, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$63	\$274, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 172½, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$153, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$38, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$61, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$134, buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$13, sales & sellers
Do.	\$2½	\$4½, buyers
S'hai Land Ins. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 50	Tls. 112
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 30, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 32½
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$14½, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$29½, sales & buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$10½, sales
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$15½, sellers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15½, sales & buyers
Do.	\$5	\$94, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$160, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$140, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$48, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$217½, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$286, buyers
Hk. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$19, sales
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$20, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$37, buyers
Hell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$5, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$94, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$189
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$1, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$94, sales & sellers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$9, buyers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$91
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$12, sales & buyers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50
Canton, Hongkong Ice Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$150, sellers
Phippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$94, sellers
Steam Laundry Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$7, sellers
Do.	\$5	\$31, buyers
S. C. Morning Post	\$25	\$25, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report, for the week ending 11th August, 1904, states:—We have to report a very large business during the past week, which has mostly been confined to Farnhams and Indo-Chinas. The former has shown a considerable advance and a rise in the cash rate from Tls. 145 to 133. In Indo-Chinas the market has also shown an upward tendency, the December rate improving Tls. 2 per share. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/6½. Banks.

Hongkong and Shanghai Banks.—Local sales at \$660 c. 71½. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas.—The market opened on the 3rd with sales for December at Tls. 77, 77½ and 78. On the 4th at 77½ August, 77/78½ October, 79 November and 78, 80 December. 5th at 79 cash and August delivery, 79½ and 80 September, 80 October and November and 80/81 December. 6th at 80 October and 80, 81 and 82 December. 9th, August shares were placed at 80½ and 80, October 80 and 81; December 81 and 82. 10th August delivery at 79½ and September at 80½. At closing the market is steady with cash shares in demand. The market is quoted in the South at \$113. Docks and Wharves.—S. & H. Wharves have been placed at Tls. 150 and Yangtze Wharves at Tls. 190. Farnham, Boyds.—The market opened on the 4th with cash sales at Tls. 146 and for September at 149; 150 October, 152, 153, 152½ December, 5th, at 147½ August, 153 October, 154 November, 154, 155, 155½ and 156 December and 157 January. 6th at 150 cash, 150, 151 Aug. 152, 153 Sept., 155½, 156, 157 and 158 Dec. 158 Jan. 8th, 151½ and 153 cash, 154, 155, 151½, 153 August: 154½, 156, 156½ Sept. 154/155½ Oct., 160, 161½, 162 Dec. 162/164 Jan. 9th, at 154, 155 cash, 155½ August, 157, 158, 160 Sept., 158, 158½, 160 Oct., 163, 164, 165, 166 Dec. On the 10th, at 160 August delivery, 162½ Sept., 163, 164, and 165 Oct., 166 Nov., 168, 170, 172, 172½, 171 Dec. and 171 Jan. At closing the market is firm with buyers for cash at Tls. 163. Sugar Cos.—No business reported locally. Mining.—Weihaiwei Golds have been placed at \$19. Lands.—Shanghai Lands have been placed at Tls. 112 and are offering. Industrial.—Shanghai Gas Shares have been placed for cash at Tls. 95 and Waterworks at Tls. 345. Langkats. The market has remained very steady during the week with sales at Tls. 300 for cash, 305 and 300. For Sept. at 305, 310, 312½, 311½ and 308½, and for October at 310. At closing the market is quiet: a cash transaction was reported yesterday at 302½. Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 65 and 66 Oct. There are cash buyers at 65. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz have been placed at \$30, and House des Colonies at Tls. 14. Loans.—Astor House Debentures have been placed at Tls. 100.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 22nd August.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1 9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1 9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1 9½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1 10
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1 10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1 10½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	229
Credits 4 months' sight	232½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	186
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	44½
Credits, 60 days' sight	45
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	135½
Bank, on demand	135½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	135½
Bank, on demand	135½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	80½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand—Pesos	89
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	Nom.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	1 9½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1 1½ p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1 1½ p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	61½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$ 0 9
GOLD LEAF, 130 fine, per tael	\$58.00
BAR SILVER, per oz.	26½

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

August—

ARRIVALS.

11. Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
11. Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
11. Pakling, British str., from London.
11. Whampoa, British str., from Canton.
12. Badenia, German str., from Shanghai.
12. Bedouin, British str., from Amoy.
12. Benlarig, British str., from Shanghai.
12. Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
12. Cyrus, British str., from Rangoon.
12. Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
12. Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Canton.
12. Manche, French str., from Saigon.
12. Shaohsing, British str., from Canton.
12. Simla, British str., from Shanghai.
12. Taiwan, British str., from Shanghai.
12. Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
12. Tyr, Norwegian str., from Canton.
13. Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
13. Binh-Thuan, French str., from K'notzu.
13. Changohow, British str., from Canton.
13. Empire, British str., from Kobe.
13. Haiching, British str., from Taka.
13. Hangsang, British str., from Canton.
13. Johanne, German str., from Swatow.
13. Namsang, British str., from Calcutta.
13. Tean, British str., from Manila.
13. Wosang, British str., from Newchwang.
13. Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
14. Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
14. Empire, British str., from Kobe.
14. Fooshing, British str., from Moji.
14. Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
14. Haitau, British str., from Coast Ports.
14. Kaifong, British str., from Cebu.
14. Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
14. Triumph, German str., from Coast Ports.
15. Changsha, British str., from Sydney.
15. Karin, Swedish str., from Sourabaya.
15. Legaspi, American str., from Manila.
15. Mathilde, German str., from Hoihow.
15. Moyune, British str., from Foochow.
15. Preussen, German str., from Yokohama.
15. Pronto, Norwegian str., from Canton.
15. Rubi, British str., from Manila.
16. Empr. of India, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
16. Gneisenau, German str., from Bremen.
16. Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
16. Korat, German str., from Singapore.
16. Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
16. Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
16. Ocampo, British str., from Mororan.
16. Taiwan, British str., from Canton.
16. Waishing, British str., from Canton.
17. Austria, Austrian str., from Trieste.
17. Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
17. Kansu, British str., from Tientsin.
17. Quang-nam, French str., from Saigon.
17. Sam-en, German str., from Kolsichang.
17. Suisang, British str., from Peking.
17. Taintan, German str., from Bangkok.
17. Wosang, British str., from Canton.
17. Yochow, British str., from Shanghai.
18. Ataka, British str., from New York.
18. Borneo, British str., from Kobe.
18. Gogovale, British str., from Sasebo.
18. Haiching, British str., from Swatow.
18. Idomenens, British str., from Liverpool.
18. James Brand, British str., from Swatow.
18. Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
18. M. Struve, German str., from Tamsui.
18. Sarpedon, British str., from Shanghai.
18. Terrible, British cruiser, from Portsmouth.
19. Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.
19. Hailoong, British str., from Chusan.
19. Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Pakhoi.
19. Orange, British str., from Bangkok.
19. Petrarch, German str., from Saigon.
19. Prins Valdemar, Dan. str., from Shanghai.
19. Taming, British str., from Manila.
20. Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.
20. Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
20. Mathilde, German str., from Swatow.
20. Pittanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
20. Rannmoor, British str., from Venice.
21. Chwanshan, British str., from Manila.
21. Elis. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
21. Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
21. Helena, U.S. gunboat, from Canton.
21. Hohsichang, German str., from Bangkok.
21. Kowloon, German str., from Chinkiang.
21. Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
21. Prometheus, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
21. Sirius, British cruiser, from Singapore.
21. Themis, Norwegian str., from Kobe.

21, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
21, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.

DEPARTURES.

12, Atholl, British str., for Yokohama.
12, Borg, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
12, Capri, Italian str., for Bombay.
12, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
12, Carl, British str., for Nagasaki.
12, Coromandel, British str., for Shanghai.
12, Cyrus, British str., for Yokohama.
12, Glancus, British str., for Shanghai.
12, Hyades, British str., for Tacoma.
12, James Brand, British str., for Swatow.
12, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
12, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
12, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
12, Macduff, British str., for Shanghai.
12, Manche, French str., for Yokohama.
12, Maria, Italian barque, for Callao.
12, Nubia, German str., for Hamburg.
12, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Canton.
12, Siam, British str., for Langkat.
12, Tainan, British str., for Australia.
12, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
13, Benlarig, British str., for Kobsiohang.
13, Cheangchow, British str., for Amoy.
13, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
13, Loksang, British str., for Bangkok.
13, Medan, German str., for Sydney.
13, Nigretia, British str., for Moji.
13, Pekin, British str., for Nagasaki.
13, Simla, British str., for Europe.
13, Stettin, British str., for Foochow.
13, Tweeddale, British str., for Durban.
13, Whampoa, British str., for Shanghai.
13, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
14, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Tamsui.
14, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
14, Pakling, British str., for Nagasaki.
14, Shohsing, British str., for Saigon.
14, Thales, British str., for Tamsui.
14, Wosang, British str., for Canton.
14, Wuhu, British str., for Saigon.
15, Badenia, German str., for Hamburg.
15, Bedouin, British str., for New York.
15, Changechow, British str., for Chinkiang.
15, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
15, Hailoong, British str., for Haiphong.
15, Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
15, Heimdal, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
15, Progress, German str., for Tsingtau.
16, Belgian King, British str., for Kobe.
16, Catherine Apear, Brit. str., for Calcutta.
16, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
16, Glenogle, British str., for Amoy.
16, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
16, Johanne, German str., for Swatow.
16, Korea, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
16, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
16, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
16, Tean, British str., for Manila.
17, Apenrade, German str., for Hoihow.
17, Empire, British str., for Australia.
17, Gneisenau, German str., for Shanghai.
17, Kansu, British str., for Canton.
17, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
17, Mathilde, German str., for Swatow.
17, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
17, Moyuna, British str., for Singapore.
17, Preussen, German str., for Europe.
17, Triumph, German str., for Coast Ports.
17, Waishing, British str., for Shanghai.
17, Yochow, British str., for Canton.
18, Anghin, German str., for Bangkok.
18, Gogovale, British str., for Calcutta.
18, Hue, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
18, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
18, Legaspi, Amr. str., for Manila.
18, Phranang, German str., for Swatow.
18, Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.
18, Wosang, British str., for Tientsin.
19, Borneo, British str., for London.
19, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
19, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
19, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
19, Prins Valdemar, Dan. str., for Bangkok.
19, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.
19, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
20, Anghin, German str., for Bangkok.
20, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
20, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
20, Idomeneus, British str., for Shanghai.
20, James Brand, Brit. str., for Balek Papan.
20, Kensington, British str., for Panama.
20, Mercedes, British str., for Weihaiwei.
20, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
20, Sarpedon, British str., for London.
20, Terrible, British cruiser, for Weihaiwei.

21, Austria, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
21, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
21, Emma Luyken, Ger. str., for Samarang.
21, Fooching, British str., for Saigon.
21, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
21, Karin, Swedish str., for Chefoo.
21, M. Struve, German str., for Tamsui.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Simla*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong. Capt. and Mrs. Hall and child, Mrs. Yates Sterling, Miss Pearson, Messrs. W. J. Southern, F. B. St. Jacob, Patala, J. Nishihama, Harris, and Bastein; for Singapore, Mr. A. B. Cumming; for Colombo, Mr. D. Pearce; for Bombay, Mr. T. Stafford; for Marseilles, Rev. H. G. Hallock.

Per *Manche*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles. Mr. and Mrs. Brunschwig; from Colombo, Mrs. Osborne, Miss Kelly, Messrs. Unwalla, Grosier, Guinecardt, Jenker, Friedrichson, Carter, Wilman, Tourman, Ward, Buckley, and Shlackier; from Singapore, Mr. H. Harg; from Saigon, Mrs. Rico and Mr. Colson; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Prince Pu Lun, Messrs. Morbert Pague, Lion, de Ligniere, Gouin, Hoblet, Phil. Ev-hay, and Bourgeat, Reva Brulaut Gregory, Bearlitz, and Flamant; from Suez, Mr. and Mrs. Kodini; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Eckford, Mrs. Lovel, Mrs. Wittrech, Mr. and Mrs. Lesborvitz, Messrs. Meidinger, E. Schmidt, Burton, Abame, Lechnutta, Schumann, Abraham Melmann, Goldmann, and H.E. Ou Tai Tchag; from Singapore, Messrs. Okino and Otto Spiens; from Saigon, Messrs. Peter Jacobson and Fischel Feldmann; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mrs. Balet and infant and Mr. J. M. Seymour; from Colombo, Mrs. Roley, Mrs. Imai, Drs. F. Doffern, K. Minavia, and M. Doffern, Messrs. Serno, Andreu, and Ehans; from Bombay via Colomb, Mr. Mehta; from Singapore, Messrs. Ripp, Sajoo, and Basila Andalluft; for Kobe, from Colombo, Messrs. Ohtani, Carman, Giffin, Andresen, and Ohlsen; from Singapore, Mrs. Sonoyan Halsu, Gonce, and Tsamda; from Batavia via Singapore, Mr. Sjobesema.

Per *Changsha*, from Australia. Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Moss and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Fresching, Miss P. Wall, A. Turtle, Craig, and Tamaye, Mr. Gellatly and Miss A. Gellatly, Messrs. Soper, Taylor, Masters, B. Newbolt, F. James, Nicholson, W. Mill, Keightly, Bignall, Stephens, and Nakata.

Per *Preussen*, from Yokohama, Messrs. R. Otto, Farias and family, A. R. Lewis, F. W. Oliver, F. S. Cairns and family, F. Cartledge, and A. Lopez; from Kobe, Miss Baker Messrs. P. Piethe and K. Kubata; from Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. K. Saito; from Shanghai, Messrs. Delbonrgo, F. Kinch, E. W. Mills, M. Stempel, Stuart Garrek, Fomi Tambe t, F. Lorri, and W. Pillarim, and Misses Samson (2).

Per *Empress of India*, from Yokohama, Dr. E. T. Wilson; from Kobe, Messrs. F. W. Pfoff and J. Archer; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Webster, Lient. L. H. Bramson, and Mr. G. Ramandas.

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Per *Borneo*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. J. Kelly; for London, Mrs. Grey and 2 children, Mrs. Thompson and infant, Miss H. M. Furness, Capt. and Mrs. P. C. Petersen, Messrs. T. Lamb, A. C. Olsen, J. T. Carlsen, T. Nielsen, A. Andersen, T. Nielsen, C. Carlsen, H. Larsen, C. Patterson, C. Crabbe, G. Brown, and A. Blakey; from Kobe, for Hongkong, Mr. Tsutoma Funamoto; for London, Miss E. Skinner and Mr. J. Ager; from Foochow, for Hongkong, Messrs. W. W. Ritchie and J. W. Grimsley.

DEPARTED.

Per *Manche*, for Shanghai, Misses About, Messrs. Edmund Brunschwig and Muth; for Kobe, Mr. J. Gomes.

Per *Simla*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mr. Sydney J. Lyons and Sergt. Holmes, R.G.A.; for Bombay, Mrs. F. Rahim, Miss F. Rahim, Master A. M. F. Rahim and infant, Mr and Mrs. C. Rahim, Messrs. H. J. Abba and A.

Mowledina; for London, Messrs. A. S. Pearce, R.N., J. J. Dewing, R.N., and W. E. Day, R.N.; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Mr. A. B. Cumming; for Colombo, Mr. D. Pearce; for Bombay, Mr. T. C. Stafford; for Marseilles, Rev. H. G. C. Hallock.

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Per *Preussen*, for Hamburg, Rev. and Mrs. O. F. Berghol, Mr. and Mrs. J. van Braam Houckgeest, Mrs. Bur and child, Mr. and Mrs. Fred. Chamberlin, Mrs. Clapp and child, Mr. and Mrs. Dengler, Mrs. Ferrier and child, Mr. and Mrs. R. Hendry, Capt. and Mrs. Ivanoff and child, Mrs. Jacobi, Mr. and Mrs. Jahn, Mr. and Mrs. H. Langbein and children, Mrs. Loew and son, Mrs. A. Macgowan and child, Capt. and Mrs. Maximoff, Mr. and Mrs. Pachioni, Mrs. Hauptmann von Ploennis and child, Mr. and Mrs. Stahlberg and child, Mr. and Mrs. P. Verschuyl, Mrs. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. M. van Weel, Lieuts. A. A. da Fonseca and M. A. Farias, Revs. Laughton and J. E. Scott, Capt. A. Theisen, Misses Brenz, S. Hiraki, and A. Wood, Messrs. James Wood, A. Abden, E. Abraham eu, Battista Bignasso, Bassadin, Bauer, L. D. Dey, Francesco Drago, J. H. Fock, J. Fischer, Fres, Fromovicz, James Gannon, Giuseppe Gazzolo, Edoardo Geronimi, H. Girsch, L. Goetschel, Ed. M. Hansen, W. C. Hartridge, Huber, J. Jeromon, A. Johns, F. J. A. Ledeboer, Martini Luigi, R. Martin, P. Meyer, Francesco Minuto, H. Pickenpaak, E. Prins, D. J. Ryder, Schad, A. Schulz, A. Slater, J. Smith, W. Smith, S. Tanaka, Targoni, F. W. F. Thomas, and Zalewsky.

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Per *Empire*, for Australia, &c., Mrs. Berliam and 2 children, Capt. and Mrs. Borges and child, Mr. and Mrs. A. Joaquim, Mrs. Moura, Mrs. Moss and child, Mrs. Uzuoka and child, Mrs. Webster, Dr. J. M. Araujo, Lieut. A. Carlos, Comdr. Colquhoun, Capt. I. J. Henry, Col. Holbeche, Fusigns J. M. Braz and Manue, Luz, Messrs. M. Aguda, Alahashoe, A. Affonso, M. A. Affonso, Archer, A. O. Barros, Bernabe, Bernardo, J. da Camara, J. D. de Carvalho, Cro s. B. Ebrahim, A. Eleuterio, J. Fernandes, F. M. Fonseca, Garrick, J. Martins, J. W. Moss, H. Ogawa, S. F. P. Pinheiro, A. F. Ribeiro, Saba, J. M. dos Santos, Singleton, A. L. Sophia, F. Townsend, and E. M. Webster.

Per *Borneo*, from Hongkong, for London, Mrs. E. Perkins and 4 children, Messrs. T. C. Stafford and J. J. B. Lambert; from Shanghai, for London, Mrs. Grey and 2 children, Mrs. Thompson and infant, Capt. and Mrs. P. C. Petersen, Miss H. M. Furness, Messrs. T. Lamb, H. C. Olsen, J. T. Carlsen, T. Nielsen, A. Andersen, T. Nielsen, C. Carlsen, H. Larsen, C. Patterson, C. Crabbe, G. Brown, A. Blakey, and James Kelly; from Kobe, for London, Miss E. Skinner and Mr. J. Ager.

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